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REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

COOPER'S NEW NOVEL.

Mark's Reef; or, the Crater. A Tale of the Pacific. By the Author of "The Prairie," "The Pilot," &c. 3 vols. R. Bentley.

THOUGH we, as landmen, and less conversant with its phraseology, have perhaps preferred his Indian to his naval scenes and adventures, the Sea has generally been considered Mr. Cooper's forte, and we have no reason to dissent from the received opinion. The present work revels on the ocean, and shipping in every situation which could be invented to try their various uses and powers,—how they sail, how they fight, how they escape perils, are all minutely brought out by the extraordinary circumstances in which the hero is placed, and the effect of the whole is hinted as follows:

"It was remarked in him, for the last forty years of his life, or after his return to Bucks, that he regarded all popular demonstrations with distaste, and, as some of his enemies pretended, with contempt. Nevertheless, he strictly acquitted himself of all his public duties, and never neglected to vote. It is believed that his hopes for the future, meaning in a social and earthly sense, were not very vivid, and he was often heard to repeat that warning text of Scripture which tells us, 'Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall.'"

Before we enter upon the story we may remark that there are many reflections which, like the foregoing, will be more pointedly comprehended in America than in England; though some of them, in the author's usual style, may be quite intelligible to both hemispheres. We cite a passage or two:

"Religion, too, quite as often failed to bear its proper fruits in 1793, as it proves barren in these our own times. On this subject of religion we have one word to say, and that is simply that it never was a meet matter for self-gratulation and boasting. We have the Americo-Anglican church, just as it has finished a blast of trumpets through the medium of numberless periodicals and a thousand letters from its confiding if not confident clergy, in honour of its quiet, and harmony, and superior polity, suspended on the very brink of the precipice of separation, if not of schism, and all because it has pleased certain ultra-sublimated divines in the other hemisphere to write a parcel of tracts that nobody understands, themselves included. How many even of the ministers of the altar fall at the very moment they are beginning to fancy themselves saints, and are ready to thank God they are 'not like the publicans!'"

"Both Mrs. Woolston and Mrs. Yardley were what is called 'pious'; that is, each said her prayers, each went to her particular church, and very particular churches they were; each fancied she had a sufficiency of saving faith, but neither was charitable enough to think in a very friendly temper of the other. This difference of religious opinion, added to the rival reputations of their husbands, made these ladies anything but good neighbours, and, as has been intimated, years had passed since either had entered the door of the other."

"Divine wisdom has commanded us to 'honour your father and your mother.' Observant travellers affirm that less respect is paid to parents in America than is usual in Christian

nations; we say *Christian* nations, for many of the heathen, the Chinese for instance, worship them, though probably with an allegorical connection that we do not understand. That the parental tie is more loose in America than in most others we believe, and there is a reason to be found for it in the migratory habits of the people, and in the general looseness in all the ties that connect men with the past. The laws on the subject of matrimony, moreover, are so very lax, intercourse is so simple, and has so many facilities, and the young of the two sexes are left so much to themselves, that it is no wonder children form that connection so often without reflection, and contrary to the wishes of their friends. Still, the law of God is there, and we are among those who believe that a neglect of its mandates is very apt to bring its punishment, even in this world."

"Now-a-days, nothing is easier than to separate a man from his wife, unless it be to obtain civic honours for a murderer. Doctor Yardley, at the present moment, would have coolly gone to work to get up a lamentable tale about his daughter's fortune, and youth, and her not knowing her own mind when she married, and a ship's cabin, and a few other embellishments of that sort, when the worthy and benevolent statesmen who compose the different legislatures of the vast Union would have been ready to break their necks in order to pass a bill of divorce. Had there been a child or two, it would have made no great difference, for means would have been devised to give the custody of them to the mother. This would have been done, quite likely, for the first five years of the lives of the dear little things, because the children would naturally require a mother's care; and afterwards, because the precocious darlings, at the mature age of seven, would declare, in open court, that they really loved 'ma' more than they did 'pa!' To write a little plainly on a very important subject, we are of opinion that a new name ought to be adopted for the form of government which is so fast creeping into America. New things require new names; and, were Solomon now living, we will venture to predict two things of him, viz., he would change his mind on the subject of novelties, and he would never go to Congress. As for the new name, we would respectfully suggest that of Gossopian, in lieu of that of Republican, gossip fast becoming the lever that moves everything in the land. The newspapers, true to their instincts of consulting the ruling tastes, deal much more in gossip than they deal in reason; the courts admit it as evidence; the juries receive it as fact, as well as the law; and as for the legislatures, let a piteous tale but circulate freely in the lobbies, and bearded men, like Juliet when a child, as described by her nurse, will 'stint and cry, ay!' In a word, principles and proof are in much less esteem than assertions and numbers, backed with enough of which, anything may be made to appear as legal or even constitutional."

"We have certainly made great progress in the United States within the last twenty years; but whether it has been in a direction towards the summit of human perfection, or one downward towards the destruction of all principles, the next generation will probably be better able to say than this. Even the government is getting to be gossopian."

Having thus exemplified the political and opinative nature of *Mark's Reef*, we may notice that the said Mark, who gives the name to the rocks in the Pacific, is a second Crusoe, though he has originally a companion in his wreck. The locality is conjured up from a geological convulsion of nature, and finally submerged by another; but meanwhile Mark resides on the Crater for a considerable space of time, and all the details of his life and manner of supporting himself are minutely described. As the greatest interest in Robinson Crusoe is found in his utter solitude, there is less in Mark, who has Bob Betts to keep him company during the first and worst period. When Friday comes, we are less disposed to pity Crusoe; and so we are more inclined to feel for Mark when his friend is drifted away in the pinnace built for their escape, and he is left alone, till Bob, who has made his way to Philadelphia, returns with the heroine* his bride, a wife of his own, and a tail enow to establish a colony on the Reef and adjacent isles thrown up by the submarine earthquake.

The account of all these transactions we will leave to be perused in the tale, and address ourselves to the conclusion which illuminates the pith of the argument. New settlers from the U. S. arrive at Mark's insular and prosperous dominions and the prosperity and happiness of the colony are rapidly evaporated. The application to his native country is easy.

"After this unlooked-for termination of what the colonists called the 'Pirate War' the colony enjoyed a long period of peace and prosperity. The whaling business was carried on with great success, and many connected with it actually got rich. Among these was the governor, who, in addition to his other means, soon found himself in possession of more money than he could profitably dispose of in that young colony. By his orders, no less than one hundred thousand dollars were invested in his name in the United States six per cents, his friends in America being empowered to draw the dividends, and, after using a due proportion in the way of commissions, to reinvest the remainder to his credit."

"Nature did quite as much as art, in bringing on the colony; the bounty of God, as the industry of man. It is our duty, however, to allow that the colonists did not so regard the matter. A great change came over their feelings after the success of the 'Pirate War,' inducing them to take a more exalted view of themselves and their condition than had been their wont. The ancient humility seemed suddenly to disappear; and in its place a vain-glorious estimate of themselves and of their prowess arose among the people. The word 'people,' too, was in every body's mouth, as if the colonists themselves had made those lovely islands, endowed them with fertility, and rendered them what they were now fast becoming—scenes of the most exquisite rural beauty, as well as granaries of abundance. By this time the palm-tree covered more or less of every island; and the orange, lime, shaddock, and other similar plants filled the air with the fragrance of their flowers, or rendered it bright with the golden hues of their fruits. In short,

* By-the-bye, she loses her mother twice, for when Mark returns from his first voyage in Vol. I, p. 24, he finds her in mourning for that parent, and the same event recurs a year or two after, Vol. 2, p. 55.—Homer nods.

Enlarged 93.]

everything adapted to the climate was flourishing in the plantations, and plenty reigned even in the humblest dwelling.

"This was a perilous condition for the healthful humility of human beings. Two dangers beset them, both coloured and magnified by a common tendency. One was that of dropping into luxurious idleness—the certain precursor, in such a climate, of sensual indulgences; and the other was that of 'waxing fat and kicking.' The tendency common to both, was to place self before God, and not only to believe that they merited all they received, but that they actually created a good share of it.

"Of luxurious idleness, it was perhaps too soon to dread its worst fruits. The men and women retained too many of their early habits and impressions to drop easily into such a chasm; on the contrary, they rather looked forward to producing results greater than any which had yet attended their exertions. An exaggerated view of self, however, and an almost total forgetfulness of God, took the place of the colonial humility with which they had commenced their career in this new region. These feelings were greatly heightened by three agents, that men ordinarily suppose might have a very different effect—religion, law, and the press.

"When the Rancocus returned, a few months after the repulse of the pirates, she had on board of her some fifty emigrants; the council still finding itself obliged to admit the friends of families already settled in the colony, on due application. Unhappily, among these emigrants were a printer, a lawyer, and no less than four persons who might be termed divines. Of the last, one was a presbyterian, one a methodist, the third was a baptist, and the fourth a quaker. Not long after the arrival of this importation, its consequences became visible. The sectaries commenced with a thousand professions of brotherly love, and a great parade of Christian charity; indeed, they pretended that they had emigrated in order to enjoy a higher degree of religious liberty than was now to be found in America, where men were divided into sects, thinking more of their distinguishing tenets than of the Being whom they professed to serve. Forgetting the reasons which brought them from home, or quite possibly carrying out the impulses which led them to resist their former neighbours, these men set to work, immediately to collect followers, and believers after their own peculiar notions. Parson Hornblower, who had hitherto occupied the ground by himself, but who was always a good deal inclined to what are termed 'distinctive opinions,' buckled on his armour, and took the field in earnest. In order that the sheep of one flock should not be mistaken for the sheep of another, great care was taken to mark each and all with the brand of sect. One clipped an ear, another smeared the wool, (or drew it over the eyes,) and a third, as was the case with Friend Stephen Dighton, the quaker, put on an entire covering, so that his sheep might be known by their outward symbols, far as they could be seen. In a word, on those remote and sweet islands, which basking in the sun and cooled by the trades, seemed designed by Providence to sing hymns daily and hourly to their Maker's praise, the subtleties of sectarian faith smothered that humble submission to the divine law by trusting solely to the mediation, substituting in its place immaterial observances and theories which were much more strenuously urged than clearly understood. The devil, in the form of a 'professor,' once again entered Eden; and the Peak, with so much to raise the soul above the grosser strife of men, was soon ringing with discussions on 'free grace,' 'immersion,' 'spiritual baptism,' and the 'apostolical succession.' The birds sang as sweetly as ever, and their morning and evening songs hymned the praises

of their Creator as of old; but, not so was it with the morning and evening devotions of men. These last began to pray at each other, and if Mr. Hornblower was an exception, it was because his admirable liturgy did not furnish him with the means of making these forays into the enemy's camp.

"Nor did the accession of law and intelligence help the matter much. Shortly after the lawyer made his appearance, men began to discover that they were wronged by their neighbours, in a hundred ways which they had never before discovered. Law, which had hitherto been used for the purposes of justice, and of justice only, now began to be used for those of speculation and revenge. A virtue was found in it that had never before been suspected of existing in the colony; it being discovered that men could make not only very comfortable livings, but, in some cases, get rich, by the law; not by its practice, but by its practices. Now came into existence an entire new class of philanthropists; men who were ever ready to lend their money to such of the needy as possessed property, taking judgment bonds, mortgages, and other innocent securities, which were received because the lender always acted on a principle of not lending without them, or had taken a vow, or made their wives promises; the end of all being a transfer of title, by which the friendly assistant commonly relieved his dupe of the future care of all his property. The governor soon observed that one of these philanthropists rarely extended his saving hand, that the borrower did not come out as naked as the ear of the corn that has been through the sheller, or nothing but cob; and that, too, in a sort of patent-right time. Then there were the labourers of the press to add to the influence of those of religion and the law. The press took up the cause of human rights, endeavouring to transfer the power of the state from the public departments to its own printing-office; and aiming at establishing all the equality that can flourish when one man has a monopoly of the means of making his facts to suit himself, leaving his neighbours to get along under such circumstances as they can. But the private advantage secured to himself by this advocate of the rights of all, was the smallest part of the injury he did, though his own interests were never lost sight of, and coloured all he did; the people were soon convinced that they had hitherto been living under an unheard-of tyranny, and were invoked weekly to arouse in their might, and be true to themselves and their posterity. In the first place, not a tenth of them had ever been consulted on the subject of the institutions at all, but had been compelled to take them as they found them. Nor had the present incumbents of office been placed in power by a vote of a majority, the original colonists having saved those who came later to the island all trouble in the premises. In these facts was an unceasing theme of declamation and complaint to be found. It was surprising how little the people really knew of the oppression under which they laboured, until this stranger came amongst them to enlighten their understandings. Nor was it less wonderful how many sources of wrong he exposed, that no one had ever dreamed of having an existence. Although there was not a tax of any sort laid in the colony, not a shilling ever collected in the way of import duties, he boldly pronounced the citizens of the islands to be the most overburdened people in Christendom! The taxation of England was nothing to it, and he did not hesitate to proclaim a general bankruptcy as the consequence, unless some of his own expeditors were resorted to, in order to arrest the evil. Our limits will not admit of a description of the process by which this person demonstrated that a people, who, literally contributed

nothing at all, were overtaxed; but any one who has paid attention to the opposing sides of a discussion on such a subject, can readily imagine how easily such an apparent contradiction can be reconciled, and the proposition demonstrated.

"In the age of which we are writing, a majority of mankind fancied that a statement made in print was far more likely to be true than one made orally. Then he who stood up in his proper person and uttered his facts on the responsibility of his personal character, was far less likely to gain credit than the anonymous scribbler, who recorded his lie on paper, though he made his record behind a screen, and half the time as much without personal identity as he would be found to be without personal character, were he actually seen and recognised. In our time, the press has pretty effectually cured all observant persons at least of giving faith to a statement merely because it is in print, and has become so far alive to its own great inferiority as publicly to talk of conventions to purify itself, and otherwise to do something to regain its credit; but such was not the fact, even in America forty years since. The theory of an unrestrained press has fully developed itself within the last quarter of a century, so that even the elderly ladies, who once said with marvellous unctious, 'It must be true, for it's in print,' are now very apt to say, 'Oh! it's only a newspaper account!' The foulest pool has been furnished by a beneficent Providence with the means of cleansing its own waters.

"But the 'Crater Truth-Teller' could utter its lies, as a privileged publication, at the period of this narrative. Types still had a sanctity; and it is surprising how much they deceived, and how many were their dupes. The journal did not even take the ordinary pains to mystify its readers, and to conceal its own cupidity, as are practised in communities more advanced in civilization. We dare say that journals are to be found in London and Paris, that take just as great liberties with the fact as the Crater Truth-Teller; but they treat their readers with a little more outward respect, however much they may mislead them with falsehoods. Your London and Paris publics are not to be dealt with as if composed of credulous old women, but require something like a plausible mystification to throw dust in their eyes. They have a remarkable proneness to believe that which they wish, it is true; but beyond that weakness, some limits are placed to their faith, and appearances must be a good deal consulted.

"But at the Crater no such precaution seemed to be necessary. It is true that the editor did use the pronoun 'we,' in speaking of himself; but he took all other occasions to assert his individuality, and to use his journal diligently in its behalf. Thus, whenever he got into the law, his columns were devoted to publicly maintaining his own side of the question, although such a course was not only opposed to every man's sense of propriety, but was directly flying into the teeth of the laws of the land; but little did he care for that. He was a public servant, and of course all he did was right. To be sure, other public servants were in the same category, all they did being wrong; but he had the means of telling his own story, and a large number of gaping dunces were ever ready to believe him. His manner of filling his larder is particularly worthy of being mentioned. Quite as often as once a week, his journal had some such elegant article as this, viz.:—'Our esteemed friend, Peter Snooks'—perhaps it was Peter Snooks, *Esquire*—has just brought us a fair specimen of his cocoon-nuts, which we do not hesitate in recommending to the housekeepers of the crater, as among the choicest of the group.'—Of course, 'Squire

Snooks was grateful for this puff, and often brought more cocoa-nuts. The same great supervision was extended to the bananas, the bread-fruit, the cucumbers, the melons, and even the squashes, and always with the same results to the editorial larder. Once, however, this worthy did get himself in a quandary with his use of the imperial pronoun. A mate of one of the vessels inflicted personal chastisement on him, for some impertinent comments he saw fit to make on the honest tar's vessel; and this being matter of intense interest to the public mind, he went into a detail of all the evolutions of the combat. Other men may pull each other's noses, and inflict kicks and blows, without the world's caring a straw about it; but the editorial interest is too intense to be overlooked in this manner. A bulletin of the battle was published; the editor speaking of himself always in the plural, out of excess of modesty, and to avoid egotism (!) in three columns which were all about himself, using such expressions as these; 'We now struck our antagonist a blow with our fist, and followed this up with a kick of our foot, and otherwise we made an assaut on him that he will have reason to remember to his dying day.' Now, these expressions for a time, set all the old women in the colony against the editor, until he went into an elaborate explanation shewing that his modesty was so painfully sensitive that he could not say I on any account, though he occupied three more columns of his paper in explaining the state of our feelings. But, at first, the cry went forth that the battle had been of two against one; and that even the simple-minded colonists set down as somewhat cowardly. So much for talking about *we* in the bulletin of a single combat!"

The political effects are traced with a caustic hand:

"Progress was the great desideratum; and change was the hand-maiden of progress. A sort of 'puss in the corner' game was started, which was to enable those who had no places to run into the seats of those who had. This is a favourite pursuit of man, all over the world, in monarchies as well as in democracies: for, after all that institutions can effect, there is little change in men by putting on, or in taking off ermine and robes, or in wearing 'republican simplicity,' in office, or out of office; but the demagogue is nothing but the courtier, pouring out his homage in the gutters, instead of in an ante-chamber."

The governor is overthrown, and one "Pen-nock was chosen governor for two years; the new lawyer was made judge; the editor, secretary of state and treasurer; and other similar changes were effected. All the Woolston connection were completely laid on the shelf. This was not done so much by the electors, with whom they were still popular, as by means of the nominating committees. These nominating committees were expedients devised to place the power in the hands of a few, in a government of the many. The rule of the majority is so very sacred a thing that it is found necessary to regulate it by legerdemain. No good republican ever disputes the principle, while no sagacious one ever submits to it. There are various modes, however, of defeating all 'sacred principle,' and this particular 'sacred principle' among the rest. The simplest is that of caucus nominations. The process is a singular illustration of the theory of a majority-government. Primary meetings are called, at which no one is ever present, but the wire-pullers and their puppets. Here very fierce conflicts occur between the wire-pullers themselves, and these are frequently decided by votes as close as majorities of one, or two. Making the whole calculation, it follows that nominations are usually made by about a tenth or even a twentieth of the body of the electors; and this,

too, on the supposition that they who vote actually have opinions of their own, as usually they have not, merely wagging their tongues as the wires are pulled. Now, these nominations are conclusive, when made by the ruling party, since there are no concerted means of opposing them. A man must have a flagrantly bad character not to succeed under a regular nomination, or he must be too honest for the body of the electors; one fault being quite as likely to defeat him as the other.

"In this way was a great revolution effected in the colony of the Crater.

"But Mark—we must call him the governor no longer—had watched the progress of events closely, and began to comprehend them. He had learned the great and all-important political truth, that the more a people attempt to extend their power *directly* over state affairs, the less they, in fact, control them, after having once passed the point of naming lawgivers as their representatives; merely bestowing on a few artful managers the influence they vainly imagine to have secured to themselves. This truth should be written in letters of gold, at every corner of the streets and highways in a republic; for truth it is, and truth, those who press the foremost on another path will the soonest discover it to be. The mass *may* select their representatives, *may* know them, and *may* in a good measure so far sway them, as to keep them to their duties; but when a constituency assumes to enact the part of executive and judiciary, they not only get beyond their depth, but into the mire. What can, what does the best-informed layman, for instance, know of the qualifications of this or that candidate to fill a seat on the bench? He has to take another's judgment for his guide; and a popular appointment of this nature, is merely transferring the nomination from an enlightened, and what is everything, a responsible authority, to one that is unavoidably at the mercy of second persons for its means of judging, and is as irresponsible as air."

The old colonists return to the mother country, and their successors are, as we have mentioned, swallowed up by the catastrophe of a second earthquake. It might be well for the world, according to our Author, if all who resemble them were doomed to a similar fate.

THOMSON'S SEASONS IMPROVED.

The Seasons. By James Thomson. Edited, with notes philosophical, classical, historical, and biographical. By Anthony Todd Thomson, M.D., F.L.S., &c., &c. Longmans.

THAT so excellent an idea should not have occurred before, even in our uninventive times, is strange; that it should have fallen into such competent hands at last, when it has occurred, is most satisfactory. Dr. Anthony Todd Thomson was just the man to illustrate James Thomson, for he has feeling for his poetry, sufficient early acquaintance with rural life and nature for his images and descriptions, and cultivated intelligence for all his diversified matter. He has accordingly ranged the Seasons with a kindred spirit and illustrated their admirable illustrator in a way to make his beauties more intensely felt, and his references better understood than they have ever yet been. Thus we have a volume of a singular kind; a volume which teaches, not in the usual way, through scholastic labour; but in a very original way, through the warmed imagination. The Poet is made the Schoolmaster.

Need we say that for families, and every resort for education, a more valuable production could not be devised and published. Popular as the Seasons have ever deservedly been, we anticipate that their new form will render them tenfold more so, as a household treasure for abundant recreation and salutary instruction.

With the volume, our critical task, if task it can be called, is most easy. We have but to turn over the pages and take a sample anywhere, being sure to support our praise whence-soever taken. In the preface our own thoughts are thus embodied:

"It is true, that the volume of Nature is open to every one, although every eye which looks upon it is not fitted to profit by the perusal of its pages; but when aided, to even a moderate degree, by the light of science, everything appears in a new and more interesting point of view. Each passing cloud varying its form, its colour, and its altitude; the pendent drops upon the blades of grass, radiant of every hue in the morning beam; weeds trodden under foot and passed unnoticed; the insect tribes filling the noontide air with their drowsy hum; the simple notes from every sheltering copse; the habits of the larger animals; the earth, the air, the morn and even,—all afford objects of interest to the mind enlarged by education, which blending with the pleasures of imagination, not only exalt the character, but heighten the moral feeling. It is to afford this assistance to the readers of the Seasons, that I have ventured to lay the annotations appended to this edition before the public."

And Dr. T. offers some excellent observations on the Poem itself:

"In many of the productions of our best poets we can trace the imitation of some model, which their authors seem to have adopted as the guide of their labours. It might be supposed that the Georgics of Virgil furnished the idea of the Seasons; but although many of the subjects treated of in the Georgics form, also, the themes of the Seasons, yet there is no affinity between the labours of the Roman poet and those of Thomson, except that both, in choosing an apparently unpoetical subject, have redeemed the error by the skill and poetical genius displayed in its treatment. The idea of writing the Seasons, Thomson himself informed Mr. Collins, was taken from the four pastorals published by Pope in 1709, entitled, Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter; * but they have no resemblance in common, and indeed we can find no poetic prototype for the Seasons; so that we may unhesitatingly affirm, that their poet, filled with the admiration of his subject, sought no model to work by but that which Nature presented to him: consequently he has produced an original poem."

We are rather inclined to think that the writer refines too much upon this when he adds:

"How far this absence of similarity of the Seasons to prior poetical productions may be regarded as complimentary to the taste of the author, may be questioned; for taste can be improved and perfected only by the careful study of the accumulated productions of genius; and to the neglect of such sources of improvement of taste, we may venture to attribute some of the few faults of the Seasons."

For the sake of "originality" we would forgive a hundred worse faults than are here alleged, and surely there might have been mentioned the almost matchless force of adjectives, epithets, and single words, in which Thomson abounds beyond any author in the English language. These far more than counterbalance any tendency to verbiage or turgidity: we could make a string of them to fill our *Gazette*! But we have to leave the verse for the prose notes, only intimating that the former is the best edition, viz., that chosen with sound judgment by Mr. Bolton

* It is a curious coincidence that Dr. Armstrong, the author of *The Art of preserving Health*, had just finished a poem on *Winter*, when the *Winter* of Thomson appeared.—*Corney's Ed. on the Seasons, Life of Thomson*, p. xliii.

Corney, the edition of 1746, containing the final revision of the author, who died in 1748.

"Come Gentle Spring!"

Of the bittern, "with bill ingulphed, to shake the sounding marsh," the annotator says:

"This bird is the *Ardea stellaris* of Linneus and Pennant, the *Botaurus stellaris* of Selby, the Bittour of our ancestors. It is a tall bird; the general colour of the plumage is rusty-yellow, streaked and barred with dark-brown; a tuft of black feathers on the crown of the head, and the feathers on the neck loose and waving; the legs are strong, of a pale green colour; and the feet furnished with long claws. The length of the bird is two feet and a-half; the bill four inches long, brown above and green below. The nest is made of sticks and rushes, among reeds in marshy ground, in April, and usually contains four or five pale brown-coloured eggs. The provincial name, '*Mire-drum*,' originates from the booming noise which the bird always makes during the breeding season, and which the poet refers to in the expression 'shakes the sounding marsh.' The above passage of the poem might seem to imply that the bittern is migratory; but it is found in Britain throughout the year. Its favourite locality is Manton Common, near Briggs, in Lincolnshire. In the autumnal evenings, when the Bittern was more common than in the present day, it was often seen to soar, in a spiral line, to an amazing height, screaming in a peculiar note."

It was the perpetual inhabitant of a marsh within a mile of Ednam, the birthplace of Thomson; and a thousand nights of his childhood must have been awakened with the boom of "the Bull of the Bog," (for so was it named there) from "the Berry Moss," a town-common for grazing cattle, but now completely drained, and forming the race-course for the Kelso races.

"Ye generous Britons venerate the plough,

And be the exhaustless granary of a world,"

suggests the following as part of a note:

"The facilities for rendering the whole productive, independent of increased knowledge, are, by the means of transport of lime, manure, and every requisite for the purpose by railroads; and the equal facilities these afford of conveying the productions of the farm to an advantageous market. These are undeniable advantages which our forefathers, even had Science shed its light upon their labours, did not possess. The great object of legislation, therefore, is now to encourage every thing which can add to the knowledge of the farmer, and to make him aware how much may be performed by means of the nature of which he is ignorant; and by powers which, although generally known, yet he has failed to employ. Thus we are told by high authority, namely Mr. Brown, of Markle, that the thrashing machine, if generally used, would save one-twentieth of the whole grain produced in this kingdom. Now suppose this to be 30,000,000 of quarters; the quantity presumed to be left in the straw is 1,500,000 quarters, which, at 40s. per quarter, amount to £5,000,000 sterling saved to the country. Upon the whole, were every means adopted to accelerate the cultivation of waste lanes, and to improve those already under tillage, there is little reason to fear a deficiency of food in Great Britain, notwithstanding its increasing population, for many generations to come."

On the poet's "clammy mildew," line 115, Dr. T. remarks:

"The employment of the epithet 'clammy' by the poet induces me to believe that he refers rather to the honey-dew (*Suffusio mellita*) than the mildew; and I am confirmed in this opinion from the mildews not appearing in spring, but towards autumn, whereas the honey-dew prevails in spring. It is a viscid juice that appears on the upper surfaces of leaves, like

spots of varnish: it is clammy, and has a sweet taste. Some writers suppose that it depends on the puncture of the leaves by the aphid or green plant-louse, and the deposition of the sap, rendered sweet in its passage through the body of the insect, on the upper surface of the leaves, below those on which the aphides congregate on the under surface; but there is more reason for believing that it is a morbid secretion of the leaf itself, in very hot and dry weather. Duhamel says, that he has observed it in such abundance on willows by the side of a river that it dropped from the points of the leaves, and children were busy in catching it. I am inclined to adopt this explanation, as I have seen it on leaves where no aphides were present. In Syria, the honey-dew, which forms in great quantity, is allowed to drop from the trees and harden into globules, which are afterwards dissolved in water and used as drink.

"Then spring the living herbs, profusely wild,
O'er all the deep-green earth, beyond the power
Of botanists to number up their tribes!"

"This," says Dr. T. "must be the case as long as any portion of the globe remains unexamined by the botanist. In 1836, Meyer, a German, estimated the number of known species at 200,000; but this is probably far too low a calculation."

Line 381 and *seq.* induce Dr. T. to deem the poet an accomplished angler; but the passage scarcely sustains the *accomplishment* of more than a boy's fishing in the Eden, a pretty rivulet which ran close by the glebe and garden of Thomson's father, the minister of *Eden-ham* (abbreviated Ednam), and ran into the Tweed about two or three miles below. Where Thomson describes the labour of the bee, his annotator informs us, among other interesting bits of natural history:

"The honey of flowers is not only the source of the honey deposited in the comb of the hives, but it is the chief food of the bee; and for this purpose it is laid up in the cells of the comb. Those flowers, which are tubular, provided the tube be not too long for the tongue of the bee, are the chief sources of honey. Thus, the white clover, thyme, common heath, lavender, rosemary, the flowers of the lime tree, are all excellent plants for yielding honey to the labours of the bee in this country; but the tube of the honeysuckle, although it contains much honey, yet on account of its length, is less sought after by it. The trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), in particular, contains a large quantity of honey; but it is seldom attempted to be rifled by the bee. In many instances, instinct prevents the bee from visiting certain flowers which secrete matter poisonous to the insect. Notwithstanding the large and exposed nectaries of the Crown Imperial, bees never alight upon it; and for the same reason they avoid the oleander (*Nerium oleander*). But bees extract honey from some plants which, although not poisonous to them, yet render the honey poisonous to man. Some species of *Azalia*, *Rhododendron*, and *Kalmia*, are said to communicate poisonous properties to honey; and are, nevertheless, innocuous to bees. At Trebizond, Mr. Hamilton found the same kind of poisonous honey which proved fatal to many of the soldiers of Xenophon. He informs us that it is derived from a species of *Azalia* that abounds on the declivities of the mountains around Trebizond. There is no difficulty in comprehending how this should happen, for although honey is modified in the honey-bag of the bee, yet it retains the flavour which the prevailing flowers in a district give to it. The honey of the Isles of Bourbon and of Malta smells and tastes of the orange blossom: the Narbonne, of the wild rosemary; that of Sicily, and of Hymettus in Greece, of wild thyme; and the honey procured in the Highlands of

Scotland owes the flavour to the heather (*Erica vulgaris*).

"Wax was long supposed to be formed, in some manner, from the pollen of flowers; but this only furnishes the bee-bread; and it is a well-ascertained, curious fact that in each journey of a bee from the hive to collect pollen, it only alights upon one kind of flower, so that different grains of pollen are never mixed. What is carried into the hive is partly eaten at the time, partly stored up in the empty cells."

"The wild-duck, hence,
O'er the rough moss,* and o'er the trackless waste,
The heath-hen flutters, pious fraud! to lead
The hot pursuing spaniel far astray."

We daresay Jamie Thomson had many a fruitless chase after these deceivers, who will let you almost touch them as they feign broken limbs and broken wings to tempt the pursuer from their nests. For the truth of the note, quoted on the authority of Waterton, we cannot vouch. The duck generally builds earlier in the spring than the hay-making season, and she cannot, we opine, make hay for herself. But we must pause on Spring, whilst

"From brightening fields of ether fair-disclos'd,
Child of the sun, refulgent Summer comes,"

and is noted with the same biographical and scientific liberality, as the preceding season, though we select a smaller portion of examples. Where the poet speaks of the "Sun suffused of angry aspect," Dr. T. says:

"It is curious to trace the influence of superstition in assigning the plague to the malignant aspect of the stars. One W. Kemp, M.A., in a pamphlet dedicated to Charles II., says, its cause 'is that corruption of the air, which is occasioned by the influence of the stars, by the aspects, conjunctions, and oppositions of the planets, by the eclipses of the sun and moon, and by the consequences of comets.'—*Astra regunt homines, sed regit astra Deus!*

"Plague is unknown in tropical countries, for excess of heat destroys it; and the same effect results from excessive cold. In Egypt the plague commences in the autumn, and disappears as soon as the sun enters the tropic of Cancer; it is most fatal at its outbreak, and decreases in virulence as it progresses to its decline.

"A curious fact is mentioned by Baron Humboldt with respect to the salubrity of tropical climates; namely, that heat alone is not unfavourable to human life; and, as proofs of his opinion, he mentions several examples of great longevity in Peru. Among other instances, a Peruvian Indian died at the age of 147, having been married 90 years to the same woman, who died at the age of 117. It is the combination of moisture with heat that causes the insalubrity of tropical climates; and to this chiefly may be attributed the unwholesomeness of Egypt, and of the coast of Caraccas."

How congenial in gallantry do the author and editor appear in the next quotation. The poet, by-the-by, was very inflammable in affairs of love, though too indolent to be long harassed by the fierceness of passion. The droll anecdote of his means for studying his picture of Musidora bathing in the stream, through a peephole in the floor over the Misses C—s bed-chamber, is well known; and how the lively girls singed his nose for his impertinence, when its trumpet gave signal that he was not "still discreet."

"May my song soften, as thy daughters I,
Britannia, hail! for beauty is their own,
The feeling heart, simplicity of life,
And elegance, and taste: the faultless form,
Shap'd by the hand of harmony; the cheek,
Where the live crimson, through the native white
Soft-shooting, o'er the face diffuses bloom,
And every nameless grace; the parted lip,

"It is a curious fact connected with the habits of the wild duck; namely, that she covers her eggs with hay every time that she voluntarily leaves her nest during the period of incubation, even when the nest is not near the water."—*Waterton.*

Like the red rose-bud moist with morning dew,
Breathing delight; and under flowing jet,
Or sunny ringlets, or of circling brown,
The neck slight-shaded, and the swelling breast;
The look restless, piercing to the soul,
And by the soul inform'd, when drest in love
She sits high-smiling, in the conscious eye."

But the year revolves

"Crown'd with the sickle and the wheat sheaf,
While Autumn nodding o'er the yellow plain,
Comes jovial on."

On the sport of partridge shooting it is noted as "a curious fact that, although the eggs of the partridge may be hatched under the common hen, and the young brought up tame and familiar, yet, the birds do not breed in captivity."

On the "Doctor of tremendous paunch," our living and very able Doctor, takes occasion to land the vast improvement made since that period in our social habits, but without going into the extreme of abstinence. Wisely does he observe:

"The abuse of wine and of ardent spirits, is no argument against their employment, on account of their exhilarating powers in augmenting the pleasures connected with the social intercourse of society. As remedial agents, in many diseases, their place could not be supplied; but, it may be reasonably asked, of what benefit is even the temperate use of wine, or ardent spirits, to a healthful individual, who requires no additional excitement to promote either his mental or his corporeal energies? To this question we may reply, that were the real wants of humanity only to be supplied, all the elegancies, and many of the choicest comforts of civilisation, might be regarded as superfluous, and unworthy of the efforts employed to secure the possession of them; and, although we might admit that the universal propensity of mankind for drowning care, and banishing sorrow in the wine cup, when carried to excess, is derogatory to his welfare, and a crime of the deepest dye, yet we are not authorised to declaim against the use of wine and ardent spirits when used in moderation, and to pronounce them, in every point of view, only medicines or poisons. On the contrary, wine, when used with discretion and temperance, may justly be regarded as a solace amidst the cares and anxieties of life; it enlivens wit, and scatters the flowers of eloquence over the social board; gives 'society its highest taste'; opens the bosom to generous feelings; tightens the bands of friendship; and rouses into activity some of the best affections of our nature."

It is with a melancholy feeling we read at this time, a passage in Autumn, and close upon Winter, on which the editor could say nothing:

"Then lead, ye powers
That o'er the garden and the rural seat
Preside, which shining through the cheerful land
In countless numbers blest Britannia sees,
Oh lead me to the wide-extended walks,

"* In the glowing yet truly correct description of the daughters of Britain, contained in the above lines, says the Editor, the poet has not overdrawn the picture, nor has he exaggerated either the beauty and gracefulness of their persons or the moral attributes of amiability, elegance, and taste which adorn their minds. The superiority of our countrywomen, happily, does not rest solely in the loveliness and the attractions of their persons; it is in the powers of the understanding, in the extent of their information and acquisitions, and in the possession of all those qualities which elevate the sex as intellectual beings also, that they excel the women of all other nations. If they are less lively and brilliant than French women, they are more natural and sincere; they are not domestic drudges as the Belgian and Dutch women; they do not indulge the metaphysical and visionary imaginings that seduce the educated women of Germany into numerous indiscretions; they do not require the prying eyes of the duenna to watch their intercourse with the opposite sex, that the Spanish women suffer; nor the imprisonment of the Seraglio, as in Turkey; nor do they indulge in the shameless gallantries of the dark-eyed daughters of Italy. The love of the English woman is a pure and unalloyed sentiment; in her conjugal union, she is the companion, friend, and counsellor of her husband; constant and faithful; her maternal affection is deeply rooted; whilst her religious faith, founded on conviction, is the regulator of her conduct, the safeguard of her virtue, and the solid foundation of all her hopes here and hereafter."

The fair majestic paradise of Stowe!
Not Persian Cyrus on Ionia's shore
E'er saw such sylvan scenes; such various art
By genius fir'd, such ardent genius tam'd
By cool judicious art—that, in the strife,
All-beauteous Nature fears to be outdone."

And Pope too:

"Consult the genius of the place in all,
That bids the waters rise or gently fall;
That bids the ambitious hills the heavens to scale,
Or scoops in circling theatres the vale;
Calls in the country, catches op'ning glades:
Unites the woods, and varies shades from shades;
Nature shall join you; Time shall make it grow
A work to wonder at—perhaps a Stowe."

Jews, *bailiffs, executions—"perhaps a Stowe,"—
"the fair majestic paradise of Stowe." Alas,
for the desecration of this modern Garden of Eden, and the sad change of times.

"See Winter comes * * * * *
Sullen and sad, with all his rising train;
Vapours, and clouds, and storms;"

but into the illustrations of these, we will not attempt to penetrate: hoping that we have done enough, though little, to show in what an interesting manner the Editor has performed his part. Rarely has the union of the *Dulce et Utile* been more happily accomplished.

THE ENGLISH NAVY.

A History of the Royal Navy, from the Earliest times to the wars of the French Revolution. By Sir N. H. Nicolas, G.C.M.G. 2nd vol., 8vo. London, R. Bentley.

WITH his accustomed pains-taking and research, the author has here continued his useful labours; the results of which are a minute and circumstantial detail of all the recorded naval doings in which England was concerned during the reigns of Edward III., Richard II., Henry IV., and Henry V. It is true that the old accounts are generally meagre, often doubtful, and sometimes contradictory. But has it not been so even in our day, when there were regular dispatches on every occasion, and Parisian "Moniteurs" and "Extraordinary London Gazettes" to authenticate every particular? In the fourteenth century, the fights seem to have been longer, and the descriptions of them shorter. Few of the gallant leaders were dabs at the pen; and blood flowed more profusely than ink. Nor was there so much of manoeuvring to tell about. The vessels got close together, grappled and fastened with chains, and then the steel-clad warriors, archers, and other arms set to work, nearly as if on land, hammering away, like tinkers, till one side were almost all slain or thrown into the water, and the other sunk or took possession of their ships. The slaughter appears to have been prodigious, and the treatment of the prisoners, in most cases, barbarous in the extreme. Where neither ransom nor exchange could be expected, they were usually put to death—hung up, or tossed overboard, as the victors thought expedient. The vicissitudes of the wars, the great general actions in which several hundred vessels were engaged, the affairs, for ever occurring, in which from two to twenty or thirty fought desperately, the mixture of French, Flemish, Scottish, Spanish, Genoese, and English, form altogether a strange medley, and afford curious views of the age illustrated by their exploits.

Edward III. is held up to be a grand ornament to the naval service, and was complimented by his flattering people as "King of the Sea," in honour of a triumph at the battle of the Sluys, and another sanguinary engagement, Les Espagnols sur mer. But at the close of his reign the rule of the waves does not seem to have been confirmed to the English; but on the contrary, the same sort of piratical and predatory warfare covered the ocean and ravaged the coasts.

On the 4th of October, 1338, Admirals Bard

* One of the wealthiest of these, it was stated in the country, was in treaty to rent the palace and grounds.—*Ed. L. G.*

and Drayton, the former commander of the western fleet, i.e., the vessels impressed from the west of the Thames, and the latter of the northern fleet, were directed to "arrest ships, men, and stores, and to send them to sea, lest the ships laden with wool, which were about to proceed to the King in Flanders, should be intercepted. The French fleet was formed of Genoese, Normans, Bretons, Picards, and Spaniards, under Admirals, Sir Hugh Kirielt, Sir Nicholas Bahuchet, and Barbenoire,* who commanded the Genoese galleys.

"On the 15th of the same month, Bard and Drayton were informed that foreign war-galleys, manned with 'aliens and pirates,' after landing at many ports, towns, and other places in England, where they slew, burnt, and committed other injuries, had returned to their own harbours for provisions and stores, intending to come back and renew their proceedings. The admirals were, therefore, commanded to keep the ships of their respective fleets together, and attack the enemy wherever they could find him. They were not to allow their ships to be scattered or separated; and, if they wanted provisions, they were to proceed to Southampton, where victuals had been provided, and to put to sea immediately afterwards. The masters and mariners of each ship were to be told, that, if they quitted the fleet, such ship would be forfeited, and themselves imprisoned and punished. If the fleet under Bard's 'admiralty,' happened to join the northern fleet, and it were expedient that the two fleets should keep together, or to go separately to different places, then the two admirals were to determine what, 'the Lord being their guide,' had best be done. They were further enjoined not to allow any injury or offence to be committed by the crews of the one fleet on those of the other.

"Commands were issued on the 23rd of October, to the mayor, aldermen, and sheriffs of London, to be prepared against the enemy's galleys, by enclosing and fortifying the city towards the river with stone or timber, and to cause piles to be fixed across the Thames; and they were to compel all men having rents in the city, as well ecclesiastics as others, to assist in its defence.† That immediate notice might be given of the enemy's approach; only one bell of any church within seven leagues of the sea was to be rung, except in case of danger, when all the bells in every church were to be rung, to call the people together for the defence of the coast."

This may yield an idea of the system and nature of the conflicts five hundred years ago; and the following will enlarge the picture:

"Sir William Trussell, admiral of the western fleet, was desired on the 7th November to place the ship called the 'Saint Jak' of Bayonne, then at Sandwich, or some other efficient vessel, with a double shipment, at the disposal of Sir Robert d'Artois; and on the 15th of that month he was ordered to give Sir Hugh le Despencer, who was serving at sea, the two ships called the 'St. Mary cog,' and the 'cog of Clyve.' In December, the ships furnished by Bayonne were at Sandwich; and a conference had taken place between them and the barons of the Cinque Ports before the Earl of Huntingdon, the warden, respecting the equipment and disposition of their ships against the French and their adherents at sea; and though some of the Bayonnese, who had appeared before the council

* Mons. Buchon, in his edition of Froissart, and Mons. Jal print his name 'Barbenoire'; but Fabian, and other English chroniclers, call this celebrated seaman 'Blackbeard.' He was brother of the Doge of Genoa, and his proper names were Egidio Bocanegra."

† Fodera II. 1662. In the same year permission was granted to the mayor of London to erect a fortification ('quendam domum bretagitant'), in a place called 'Petty Gales,' near the Tower of London, for the defence of the city against the enemy, who were expected in their galleys. Rot. Patent. 12 Edw. III. pt. 3. m. 5."

in London, had been acquainted with the King's pleasure, yet on the 9th he wrote to the whole of them, stating that he wished them to have their vessels ready as soon as possible, and to proceed to sea with the English fleet by the middle of January, or when the admiral of the western fleet might direct them.

"No year was more memorable in the Naval history of England than 1340. Early in January, Edward the Third formally assumed the title and arms of King of France,* and resolved to maintain his right by force of arms.

"Parliament, which had been summoned to meet in the octaves of St. Hilary, was adjourned until the Monday following, in consequence of the absence of the Duke of Cornwall, guardian of England, on which day the masters and mariners of ships who had been ordered to attend were directed to appear. Among the causes for assembling Parliament, an especial motive was the necessity of providing for the safety of the sea; and, besides granting a tenth as a general aid, various measures were adopted relating to the navy. The sailors of the Cinque Ports undertook to have twenty-one of their own ships, and nine ships belonging to the river Thames, ready by mid-lent, the 26th of March, and the council promised to pay half the cost, not, however, as 'wages,' but from 'special grace.' The sailors of the western ports engaged to furnish seventy ships of one hundred tons and upwards each, and as far as they could at their own expense, the council finding the remainder of the money. It was determined by Parliament that all the ships of that tonnage belonging to Portsmouth and the westward should be at that port by mid-lent, and that the Earl of Arundel should be made their admiral; and that the vessels belonging to the Cinque Ports should assemble at Winchelsea, having the Earl of Huntingdon for their admiral. It was further determined that commands should be sent to admirals to arrest all other ships, and to prevent their putting to sea on account of the French; and that all such small ships were to be brought into havens where they might be best secured from the enemy. Proclamations were ordered to be made throughout England, that all who had obtained charters of pardon should proceed towards the sea to be ready to go in the King's service and at his wages, on pain of forfeiting those charters, and of being held responsible for the crimes which had been forgiven, if they did not do so. Measures were also adopted for the protection of Southampton, which was to be garrisoned by Sir Richard Talbot with fifty men-at-arms and one hundred archers, and two pinnaces† from Milbrook were placed at his disposal. Richard Earl of Arundel's commission as admiral of the western fleet was issued on the 20th of February.

"King Edward the Third landed at Orwell from Flanders on the 21st of February 1340, attended by his Chancellor the Bishop of Lincoln, the Earls of Derby and Northampton, Lord Ferrers, and other distinguished persons. Measures were immediately taken for preparing a large expedition, and every ship carrying twenty tons and upwards was ordered to be well manned and equipped, and sent to Sandwich for the King's passage.

"On the 20th of June the King embarked in the cog 'Thomas,' commanded by Richard Fyfe, and attended by the Earls of Derby, Northampton, Arundel, and Huntingdon, the Bishops of Lincoln and Coventry, and the Lords Wake, Ferrers, (his chamberlain,) and Cobham, in whose presence the Archbishop of Canterbury,

on pretence of his infirmities, resigned the great seal, which was broken up; and the new one, whereon the arms of France were for the first time quartered with those of England, was delivered to Sir John de la Bèche, to be transmitted to the Master of the Rolls, until it could be given to the Bishop of Chichester, the new Chancellor."

The great battle of the Sluys or Swyn, ensued, in which the enemy were dreadfully defeated, though their fourth or last line escaped, and captured several English ships in the retreat.

"On the 9th of July the King addressed a letter to the Peers and others in Parliament, soliciting an aid, in which he alludes to his victory, and refers them for further information to the Earls of Huntingdon, Arundel, and Gloucester, and Sir Thomas Trussell. Parliament met by adjournment on the 13th of July, when the Lords and Commons were informed, that, after they had been summoned, God had of His grace, granted the King a victory over his enemies, to the great assurance, quiet, and repose of all his liege subjects. On Saturday, the 15th, the Earls of Arundel and Gloucester, and Sir William Trussell, appeared in Parliament with the King's letter. After describing his proceedings up to the time he left England, Edward said, 'And we found the enemy on St. John's Day in the said port; and such grace was shown to us by our Lord Jesus Christ against them on that day, that the victory remained with us, as we feel sure will be fully told you by those who were there; for which grace we praise God, and beseech you all to thank Him.' The King then related his subsequent proceedings, and earnestly entreated them to grant him a subsidy: adding, that they would learn his wishes more at large from the mouths of the Earls of Arundel, Huntingdon, and Gloucester, and Sir William Trussell, who in that business (apparently the battle) had conducted themselves most loyally and nobly towards him, and who had come to them to explain his condition and his wants. Parliament willingly acceded to the King's demands, and ordered provisions and wine to be immediately provided for the refreshment of the fleet."

The subjoined gives a curious list of the several kinds of vessels which were employed on these expeditions:

"The shipping (says Sir H. N.) of this period consisted of 'ships,' 'cogs,' 'galleys,' 'barges,' 'crayers,' 'flutes,' or 'flukes,' 'balingers,' 'pinnaces,' 'shutes,' 'doggers,' 'hulks,' 'lynies,' 'keels,' 'seagoats,' 'fishing-boats,' 'hoc-boats,' 'liques,' 'lighters,' 'pickards,' 'lodships,' 'vissiers,' and 'busses,' but the two latter are rarely mentioned after the middle of the fourteenth century. The Spaniards had also 'caracks,' and the Genoese 'tarics.'

"SIZE OF FLEETS.—Abundant as are the Naval records of this reign, none have been found, which, like the 'Roll of Calais,' shew the aggregate number of ships and men employed on any particular occasion. Though the amount of the various fleets mentioned by chroniclers was often overrated, there can be no doubt that they frequently consisted of many hundred vessels of various sizes and classes, especially when conveying an army in the great expeditions against France.

"Ships appear to have averaged about two hundred tons, and the largest of which the tonnage is given was only three hundred. They were manned with about sixty-five men to every hundred tons of burthen, besides soldiers and archers, who were generally equal in number, and amounted to about one-half of the crew, a ship with one hundred mariners being armed with twenty-five soldiers, and twenty-five archers. Pilots seemed to have formed a distinct class of mariners, called 'lodesmen' and several instances have already been given of the use of the word. In January 1338, an order was issued to provide two 'lodesmen' to conduct

Sir William Fitzwarine and his colleague safely to Zealand; and four other 'lodesmen' were required to bring two Genoese galleys towards Norfolk.

"English ships bore no proportion in size to those of Spain, which are everywhere said to have been larger than the vessels of other countries, and so much higher out of the water as to have possessed great advantage in battle. It speaks little for the naval enterprise of this country, that Edward did not, like Alfred, build vessels, capable of coping with this formidable enemy; and it may be doubted if, except the 'Christopher,' he had any vessel which approached the Spanish caracks in size or beauty, or in the essential qualities of a ship of war."

"Much new and curious information has been obtained from the Naval accounts of this period respecting the CONSTRUCTION, RIGGING, MASTS, SAILS, and STORES OF SHIPS; and the nautical reader will perceive with some surprise, that precisely the same technical terms often occur as are now used; though there are many expressions which have become obsolete, and not a few of which the meaning has not been discovered. In only two instances does it appear that any ship had more than one mast; and though they had usually a bowsprit, it was so small a spar, that vessels had often two or more spare ones."

"The sail of a ship is called in records written in Latin 'velum,' and those in French generally 'trief,' but in a few instances 'sagle,' which tends to shew that 'trief' did not, as has been suggested mean 'a particular kind of sail, apparently used only in bad weather.' In no instance is more than one sail said to have belonged to any vessel in the numerous records which have been examined, except to the two flukes; but it was, when necessary, enlarged by having one or more bonnets laced to the lower part of it."

Is not *trief* what is now called *try-sail*? and another odd word occurs, page 7, where it is said, "The Genoese and Spaniards hurled large bars of iron and 'archgays' from their ships upon the English archers with great effect." Upon which the author notes "Archgays," a sort of pike, or lance, borne by archers; but, according to Froissart, a machine which was thrown on an enemy." The resemblance of the term to the African "Assegay," a spear thrown by the hand, is singular if accidental. But to return to our author. Of impressment, we read:

"Seamen as well as soldiers, and every article necessary for the King's service, continued to be obtained by impressment, authority for which was incidental to the office of admiral. It was, however, often given to other officers, and occasionally, by a special instrument, to the masters of particular vessels; as in October, 1335, to the master of the cog, 'Edward,' in 1336, to the master of the 'Rode cogge,' and in 1337, to the master of a barge. It is not surprising that this power was often abused. A lawyer presented a petition to the King in 1337, complaining, that, although he had neither lands nor tenements, and had never borne arms in peace or war, Sir John Ross, the King's admiral, had, nevertheless ordered him to equip himself as a man-at-arms, and to be at Orwell on pain of imprisonment as a rebel, which would, he said, ruin him, and be very injurious to his clients. Having proved that he was an attorney, Sir John Ross was directed not to enforce the summons."

Sailors have an instinctive horror of lawyers, by which title they know their most troublesome and obnoxious comrades. On the first use of cannon and gunpowder, the observations of the author are especially worthy of notice. He says:

"Few questions of an antiquarian nature are more curious than the precise period when gunpowder was invented, and when cannon were first used as an implement of war. Great obscurity still rests on both points, though much learning has been recently brought to the sub-

* It is generally supposed that the Royal motto, 'DIEU ET MON DROIT,' was adopted on this occasion; but there is not any evidence of its having ever been used before the middle of the reign of Henry the Sixth."

† Espinaces. The armour which was to be sent to Southampton consisted of 'espringals, cugnys, arblastes, actines, launces, payvez, blasouns, targes, and purkenels.' Rot. Parl. II. 108."

ject. There are strong reasons for believing, that, like the magnetic power of the loadstone, gunpowder was known to the Chinese for many centuries before it was discovered in Europe. According to some authorities, Roger Bacon suggested that it might be applied to warlike purposes; and others consider that it was invented by Bartholomew Schawrz [Schwarz] in the early part of the fourteenth century; but there is no indisputable or satisfactory evidence of the existence of cannon before February, 1325-26,* when iron balls or shot were made for cannon of metal for the use of the Florentine republic. Barbour states that 'two novelties,' one of which were 'crakys of war,' (probably a species of cannon,) were seen in the army with which Edward the Third invaded Scotland in 1327, which is very probable. Cannon were certainly used at the siege of Cambray, in October, 1399; and in December following, saltpetre and sulphur were bought for gunpowder.

"Hitherto, however, no contemporary evidence of the use of cannon in England (except indeed, the rhymes of Barbour) has been brought to light; for, though Edward is said to have had cannon at the battle of Cressy, there is no proof of the fact. Froissart speaks of cannon in 1356; and Knyghton says that Sir Thomas Morieux was killed by a gun in 1359. Those dates are later than the period when cannon were undoubtedly employed in the field; but no attempt has been made to shew when guns were placed in ships; and the first time they are expressly said by Froissart to have been used at sea was in the Spanish squadron in 1372, though, for the reason which has been assigned, the assertion is very doubtful.

"Under these circumstances the notices of cannon and gunpowder which have been recently discovered are of great interest, as the information which they afford is equally original, accurate, and important. It is manifest from these records that cannon formed part of the armament of many ships as early, and probably a few years before, 1338; that, about 1372, guns and gunpowder were commonly used; that some guns were made of iron, some of brass, and others of copper; that there was a kind of hand-gun as well as large cannon; and that gunpowder was formed of the same elements, and made in nearly the same manner, as at present."

Notwithstanding, the rule of Edward III, the "King of the Sea," we are told that:

"A vigorous government, large fleets, and the resources of this country, were never more needed than at the accession of King Richard the Second; but rarely, if ever, was the condition of England more deplorable."

At the accession of Henry IV., A.D. 1399, matters had not much amended from 1377; and we are informed:

"There is more than ordinary difficulty in relating the Naval events of this reign. Some transactions, though unnoticed by English, are fully detailed by French writers; while others, which are not mentioned by the French, find a place in English chronicles; and where an affair is described by writers of both countries, there is

often so much variation in their narratives, that it is doubtful if they could be speaking of the same matter."

In 1413, he was succeeded by his valiant son, and we read:

"No Monarch of England ever took greater interest in her Navy than HENRY THE FIFTH. He not only commanded large ships to be built, but personally inspected their progress; and though he was not, as has been said, its founder, he gave more powerful vessels to the Royal Navy than it ever before possessed, with the determination to acquire the dominion of the sea. His efforts to restore and improve the English Navy were amply rewarded; for while the most celebrated event of his reign rivalled Poitiers and Cressy, the battle of Agincourt was, like those glorious victories, followed by encounters on the ocean, in which British valour was displayed in the usual manner, and was attended by the usual success."

At the close of his career, the author remarks: "No other vessels are mentioned than occur in the time of Edward the Third, except 'fare-coasts,' a 'heliboat,' a 'skiff,' and a 'collett,' all of which were, no doubt, small craft; the fare-coasts being probably coasters, and the 'heliboat' another name for a 'hocboat.'"

With this notice we finish our sketch of a volume which possesses much antiquarian value, and will endure lastingly in all good libraries, where such national records are prized.

ANTWERP AND LA TRAPPE.

Antwerp. A Journal kept there, including also Notices of Brussels, and of the Monastery of St. Bernard, near Westmalle. Pp. 222. J. Ollivier.

A nice chatty little book, which, at Antwerp, presents us with a good picture of what remains of primitive old manners and customs (the usages of our own ancestors), throws a glance into Brussels, and gives a particular account of a visit to the Trappist monastery near Westmalle. What the author has seen he describes well and truly; what he reports from the lips of others is not, perhaps, to be always so much depended upon. For instance, he meets a German officer, "who spoke our language thoroughly well, and—related, after dinner, a few anecdotes, which, for the sake of their outlandish flavour, I have thought worth noting down."

"He was, with Prussian troops, at the great military exhibition, made not long ago, at Kalisch in Poland. Among other strange and 'down East' warriors that were there, in the service of Russia, came some Circassians. He said they were utterly without discipline, wild, impetuous, savage fighters, agile, and dexterous in the use of their arms and horses, beyond telling, and brave as you please, but untamed as wild beasts. Such was their disorderly conduct on the march from their own country, that their leaders, anxious to reduce them to something like decent behaviour before they got to the camp, were obliged,—or at all events thought proper,—to sentence to death, I verily believe he said some three hundred of them: I did not quite understand, whether they were then and there shot, or were treated with Siberia, the Russian equivalent for death, but I have an impression he said they were executed on the march, to save time and trouble. They would gallop after peasants whom they happened to see working in the fields as they passed by, and in pure wantonness, as cruel boys crush flies in a window, kill them by throwing their daggers at them."

"As an instance of their agility and dexterity, he mentioned, that, at Kalisch, he had seen an officer stand in an open space in the middle of a field covered with straw, holding in his hand a handkerchief:—the straw is fired,—a Circassian, standing on his saddle, with a pistol in each

hand, gallops at full speed through the flames,—the officer throws up the handkerchief,—the Circassian, still at full speed, hits it with his right-hand pistol, and again, before it touches the ground, with his left-hand one. Another feat was, jumping on and off a barebacked horse, going at full speed, I forget how many times in how few yards. This far surpasses the agility of the riders at Astley's and Franconi's, as, of course, the difficulty of the thing is infinitely greater, when the horse is moving in a right line, than when he goes round and round a circus."

The following is more credible and amusing:

"I am just now reminded of an anecdote, which was related to me of himself, by a gentleman I knew in Paris some years ago. He was, I believe, German by origin, but had lived so long in France as to have become as much French as German. He had a broad jovial countenance, and looked, in fact, what he really was, a kind-hearted, honest, amiable man. Once, in Holland, he caroused with certain Englishmen, consuming, and carrying off his full share of rather deep potations, freely, sociably, and withal soberly. Meeting his bottle-friends in the *salle à manger* the next morning, he was greeted with the greatest enthusiasm, and one of them, shaking him heartily by the hand, and alluding to the affair of the preceding night, exclaimed with emphasis, 'By—, Sir, you deserve to be an Englishman.'"

"The following story I give, as it was given to me, and vouched for, by another friend of mine, meekly trusting that no well-read man will think himself called upon to point it out in any volume of good things and rare jests. Travelling northwards on an English railway, my informant declares he met with an old Scotch gentleman, whose good-will he thoroughly conciliated by some trifling attentions on the journey, and peculiar circumstances afterwards threw them together for some little time. My friend, an Englishman, certainly speaks excellent broad Scotch, which it seems he used without stint on this occasion; but one evening, after certain tumbler of hot whiskey and water, his travelling acquaintance,—who would appear to have been a canny and observant person,—said to him, quietly and dryly, 'I'm just thinking, my lad, ye're no Scotchman,—but I'll tell ye what ye are, Sir—ye're an improved Englishman.'"

The writer prefers Antwerp to Brussels, of which, he says:

"I believe there is excellent society to be met with in Brussels, but it is one of those unsatisfactory places which have nothing national or original about them, being just neither Flemish, French, English, nor anything else distinctly,—an omnium gatherum of nations, and without any character of its own."

On his way to the monastery we have some remarks on the mode of travel, which, we guess, may be assented to by many of our readers. The Turn-out Diligence would now be a change of scene for us in England: and we see it stated that Cambridge and Oxford are absolutely re-establishing stage-coaches.

"Really (says our countryman), after railway experience, I quite rejoiced in the old-fashioned picturesqueness of this way of travelling. It had become a pleasant novelty, to find oneself starting on a journey in the coupé of a crazy, worn-out old diligence, that looked as if it had been standing under a shed, for swallows to build nests in, for the last ten years, drawn by three ungroomed, lumbering horses, yoked together, after a loose and jingly fashion, with patched-up harness. When I am not in a hurry, I like to travel through a country by high roads and bye-roads, or any roads but railroads. I like the incidents of travel,—the driving up hill and down dale, and round corners,—the

* In the Romance of 'Sir Tryamour,' as now printed, which is supposed to have been originally written in the reign of Edward the Second an allusion occurs to cannon; but so many additions have been made to it at subsequent periods, that little reliance can be placed on the fact as being proof of the use of guns before 1327."

+ A curious mistake has been made respecting gunpowder, by Pryne, and adopted by Kolham and other writers. In 1359 thirty tons of 'pomade,' fifty quintals of iron, and two quintals of steel were ordered to be supplied for the defence of a castle in Jersey. (Rot. Parl. ii. 109.) and in 1310 thirty-two tons of 'pomade' were provided for the King's service in Kent. (Ibid. ii. 115.) which Pryne, in his edition of Cotton's Abridgement of the Rolls of Parliament, p. 24, says, meant *gunpowder*; and observes, 'before its pretended invention.' 'Pomade' was, however, evidently cider, and only another form of the words 'pomada' and 'pomade.' Vide Ducange and Roquefort, in voce."

stopping in the towns, and at village inns,—the hasty breakfasts, dinners, and suppers,—the groups standing at the doors of the cabarets,—the wayfaring people of all sorts that one meets with; even the misfortunes of travel have a charm and an interest for me,—the breaking and mending of harness,—upsetting of carriages,—save when the carriage happens to be the one that carries yourself,—delays at the gates of fortified places, &c., &c. All this I like, and there is none of it on a railway journey. I know this is what your go-a-head utilitarian people call nonsense. All the while, be it understood, railways are excellent things in their own way."

The rites, observances, and discipline of the monks are wearisome and severe; and it is strange that men should be led to believe such austerities acceptable to heaven. The Trappist Monastery, on Charnwood Forest, in Leicestershire, is a similar establishment:

"Their main principle appears to be, a devotion of themselves to a mortifying and abstemious life, everything approaching to luxury or comfort being carefully avoided by them, and, indeed, discomfort and misery in all things being studiously introduced into their habits. Their flannel shirt is changed but once in three weeks; they are shaved but once a month; they sleep on straw mattresses, with a single blanket to cover them. Formerly they slept on bare planks; but the Pope, considering this part of their discipline too severe, and injurious to their health, directed its discontinuance. No fires are allowed, even at this season of the year, in any part of the house, except in the kitchen, printing-room, strangers' common room, and in the ante-room of the refectory during dinner, to keep their messes warm,—which last provision would appear to be a somewhat inconsistent refinement. For seven months in the year, their only meal in each twenty-four hours, except three ounces of bread in the evening, is a dinner at twelve, at which neither flesh, fowl, nor fish is eaten. A pint of beer, however, is allowed to each. Probably, during the remaining months, some small addition may be made to the three ounces of bread in the evening. With the exception of the two superiors, the two *pères hôteliers*, and those others of them whose duties positively require the permission, they are strictly forbidden to speak, either to each other or to strangers; nor are private friendships permitted among them, or signs of kindly greeting or recognition from one to another. They have no private cells, but sleep together in two dormitories. They attend, in every twenty-four hours, eight different ceremonials or services; the first taking place between two and four in the morning, the next at half-past five, at this season, and possibly earlier in the summer time. Probably, on special fast days, and at seasons of penitence, the number and length of these services are increased. They appear, moreover, to fill up, with private devotions and meditations, every moment of their day which is not occupied by their regular fixed duties and employments.

"The two superiors lead precisely the same life as the rest, in every respect, having merely the distinction of being in fact the superiors. For necessary purposes, these two occasionally go out of the convent into the world, and on these journeys they wear the common dress of a priest.

"No woman is allowed to set foot within the premises, except that the poor women, who come to the place to beg provisions, are received in the chamber in the gatehouse, where, also, I believe, ladies (I hate the word female, it sounds so like the mere definition of a naturalist) accompany visitors, are admitted; but beyond this there is no passing for petticoats. Naturally, the curiosity of 'the sex' as to La Trappe is considerable. I have been told, that bonnets and gowns have

been exchanged for hats, coats, and what not, for the sake of obtaining admission within the mysterious walls. In France, I believe that princesses of the blood royal have the right of entrée. I do not know how the privilege may be here. It is said, that at this monastery, a woman having on one occasion heedlessly passed beyond the prescribed limits, the holy fathers' pious horror of the profanation was such, that they took the trouble to turn the stones of the yard on which she had stepped, upside down. Also, that if by chance they happen to see a woman, however far off, they must bow their faces to the earth till she is out of sight. Certain it is, that on one occasion, when I was in the cabaret by the roadside, one of them, apparently employed in some outdoor work, entered, and spoke to the woman of the house, very much, it seemed to me, as a matter of course."

"The fathers are occasionally employed in performing the offices of the church in the neighbourhood, and I think I was told, that they receive payment for these services. The establishment also derives an income from the produce of its estates, if any surplus is left unconsumed in the house,—from gifts of money, and perhaps of land, by various benefactors,—and from the donations of strangers who may chance to visit them,—although nothing is asked for, and, by many, nothing paid. The indigent priests, for instance, who, when on travel, make these religious houses their hotels, pay nothing. I believe, also, that a certain fee is paid by each member on his entrance into the order.† This house is, however, very poor, so I was informed by one of the stranger priests, who said he had known it for many years. It was, in fact, his house of call in those parts.

"They renounce, in the most punctilious and careful manner, the vanities, amusements, riches, and comforts of the world, depriving themselves even of what we worldly people call necessities, and devoting themselves to a life of the extremest hardship and privation, continually fasting and praying, instructing the poor, and, to the extent of their means, relieving them, fertilizing by their labour the wilderness around them, and dispensing frugal hospitality to all who ask for it. By living this life upon earth, they hope, as one of the *pères hôteliers*, told me, to merit after death a reward in heaven. As to the punctiliousness of monastic observance, it is a valuable remark,—and,—using this expression of praise, I need hardly say it is not my own,—that, unless the letter of the rule is kept, the spirit of it soon escapes, and that attention to what are called forms, to what indeed, in itself is little, is of great consequence, when perpetuity is looked for and secured.

"The religious number among their community all sorts and conditions of men. Some that I saw appeared to have moved in the lower ranks of life; but there are in the house men who have been barristers, *hommes de lettres*, rich proprietors, and officers in the army. One of them was pointed out to me who had been a captain of lancers. Not long ago a general officer had been there, but he had been recently removed to another monastery. The abbot himself, who, I understand, is a very superior person, has been a colonel. One of the *pères hôteliers*, with whom I had more intercourse than with the other, assured me, that he himself had been a rich man, with all the comforts of the world about him, and servants to wait upon him. This was in allusion to his then waiting upon me. He said that he had once been as loud a scoffer as any at

† He was probably one of the lay brothers or servants."
† With respect to this, it appears, that in some orders, a fee is required,—as among nuns,—lest a house being broken up, when nuns are advanced in life, they should be unable to live; but this is supposed not to be the case with most monks, and, least of all, with the Trappists."

the monastic life, but that on reflection he had renounced all worldly attachments and distractions. He had considered the instability of all earthly things, that man's life is but a span, that his wealth and his creature comforts cannot attend him beyond the grave, and that the all-important consideration for him, was, what would become of his soul after death. He therefore had devoted himself to this life of self-denial, and thereby to the more complete service of God, hoping for his return hereafter. I give his own words, or thereabouts. On my asking him whether he was happy and contented, and whether the rest were so, he replied;—"Pourquoi non? We are not obliged to remain here;—it is our own doing. We should not be here if we were not happy." No doubt, however, that as far as solemn vows can bind them, they are so bound after a certain period of residence in the house. He said, that he was perfectly happy, that he now ate his miserable dinner with more satisfaction than when he formerly sat down to a luxurious table,—to use his own words;—"un bon poulet et une bouteille de vin,"—that he had no anxieties, the world, and all the responsibilities imposed by society, being at an end for him; that he had nothing to do but to devote himself heart and soul, to God's service."

Here is the converse:

"A return to the worldly gaieties of Antwerp, was a violent and striking change, and I looked back from the midst of them, upon my insight into the cloistered life at Westmalle, as upon a strange and unlikely dream, abruptly contrasting with the wide-awake realities of the day before and the day after.

"The masked balls at the Variétés and elsewhere, have commenced;—dominos and masks, excessive talk in a squeaking voice, to conceal the real one, scenes of noise and dust, whirl, bustle, and excitement. It has an odd effect to see the ghostly-looking dominos and masks,—than which I do not know a more frightful costume,—capering about, and sweeping round the hall in a galloping torrent, pell mell with buffoons, hussars, and flower-girls. And to think, that at the very moment when scenes like these are enacting at Antwerp, those monks are chanting their midnight service, in their cold, dark church at Westmalle!"

The society of Antwerp is divided into aristocratic, middle, tradesmen, and *peuples*, classes; but they intermingle to a certain extent and upon the whole the population appear to be a phlegmatic race, who, nevertheless, enjoy life without struggling much for its ambitious objects or grieving immoderately about its wants or losses."

The Prose Writers of America. With a survey of the intellectual history, prospects, &c. of the country. By R. W. Griswold. 8vo. pp. 552, double columns. Bentley.

This is so complete a cyclopædia or *vade mecum* of the male and female prose writers of America, containing selections from about two hundred of them, many very popularly known on this side of the Atlantic, and others almost, if not quite, new to us, that we consider it an excellent design and feel heartily obliged to the publisher for it. A brief memoir of the writer prefaces every selection; and there are clever, well-executed portraits of such distinguished persons as Washington Irving, Prescott, Judge Story, Daniel Webster, Audubon, Cooper, Jonathan Edwards, and others. Altogether it is a work calculated to be generally read by the literary and intelligent world of England.

Schiller's William Tell. The German text, with an interlinear translation. By L. Brannfels, Dr. Phil., and A. C. White, Esq. 8vo. pp. 335. Williams and Norgate.

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playing the forms and nature of the German language, we consider this volume to be one likely to be useful and acceptable to students desirous to conquer its difficulties and become master of its idiomatic construction.

Photography, &c. By an Amateur. Pp. 51. Brighton: R. Falthorpe. London: E. Lumley.

Gives a history of the art and a popular account of the processes of Niepce, Daguerre, Talbot, and others; out of which the reader may learn the means by which to operate and the way to use them.

An Exposition of Vulgar and Common Errors, adapted to 1845. By Thomas Brown Redivivus. Pp. 132. Pickering.

A SENSIBLE performance, but wanting the terseness and piquancy of the first Thomas Brown; and hardly equal to the other publications, entitled "Small Books on Great Subjects." As a set of rational and pleasing papers, not so much essays as brief notices, it will be perused with satisfaction.

A Voice from Windsor. By Veritas. Pp. 44. W. Strange.

A RECLAMATION addressed to the Queen, in not the most respectful language, and calling for the reopening of the show apartments in the castle nearly every day in the week. The argument is that the innkeepers now lose a great deal of money, which used to be spent by holiday visitors.

Bagster's Chronological Scripture Atlas. London: S. Bagster.

On a small scale, but a very clear and convenient series of maps to illustrate the Scriptures; and rendered still more useful by a geographical index and biblical concordance.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

[We are glad to see that the useful information for travellers, contained in these letters, cause them to be widely copied into other Journals, and also that the impartial remarks of their intelligent writer, have, in more than one instance, led to much improvement in the places and circumstances to which they apply. He has well earned the thanks of those who may follow him in both cases.—Ed. L.G.]

Galatz, on the Danube, September 4, 1847.

DEAR SIR,—After passing six days in gay Vienna, where Strauss, the waltz, and polka reign triumphant, I proceeded down the Danube to the modern capital of Hungary, Pesth. The steamer in which I embarked, left its station, about two miles from Vienna, at six a.m., and arrived at Pesth at half-past eight, p.m. The vessels are excellent iron boats, and appear, as far as their steaming matters go, to be well managed; but there seems to be bad or no management at all in the arrangements. Up to the present time we have had on an average about 200 passengers, and there is not sleeping accommodation for above thirty! I was told at Vienna that a berth would be given me, and that I should be furnished with its number to prevent any mistake; but nothing of the sort was done, and the authorities on board told me, with the greatest coolness imaginable, that there was no room. I had therefore to wrap myself in my cloak, and pass the night on deck. I think this non-performance of their agreements with travellers should be made public, and, perhaps, through the medium of your columns the subject may be brought to the notice of the competent authorities at Vienna, as I am aware that the *Literary Gazette* is taken in by many resident in that city. The treatment on board the steamers of the Austrian Lloyd's Company (and I have had personal experience), is very different. In the latter nothing can be better than the accommodation on board, nor exceed the courtesy and attention of the officers. We are to change our steamer this evening, or to-morrow, when I am told we shall

have nothing to complain of. The charge from Pesth to Constantinople for a first-class passenger, is 94 florins, or £9 8s. This does not include provisions. But to return to the journey from Vienna to Pesth. You first arrive at a place called Hainburgh, where there is a large tobacco manufactory, in which 1,200 people are employed, and which is Royal property. Woolfsal, three miles from Hainburgh, is the Custom House between Austria and Hungary. The next town arrived at is Presburgh, the old capital of Hungary; it is famous for the number of its churches (between 600 and 700), and for its staff of clergymen, who are very highly paid. Passing on are Komoru, Neomahl (the latter produces a very good wine), Gran, Vesseraed (where the ruins of an old castle are to be seen upon a high rock, and where it is said, in 1707, Ladislaus confined his cousin, King Solomon, for upwards of a twelve-months. The character of its architecture is interesting as conveying an idea of the Hunnic style), and a number of small villages dotted along both banks of the river, add much to the beauty of the panorama. The town of Weitzen, on the left bank of the river,—with the Ofen hills in the background, the beautiful appearance of which was much enhanced by a lovely sunset,—next presents itself. It is an episcopal town, and contains about 13,000 inhabitants. Weitzen is succeeded by Buda or Ofen cum Pesth, as a bridge of boats across the Danube only divides them. A magnificent iron suspension bridge is in course of construction to supersede this bridge. Its enterprising contractor is a Mr. Clark, an English engineer, and he expects to complete the splendid work in two years; which, coupled with the completion of the railroad between Vienna and Pesth, will be of vital importance to this interesting portion of Austrian territory. The authorities have made a move in the right direction, by ordering that a toll shall be levied on and paid by all classes crossing the new bridge. At present, the he or she wearing a good coat or gown, passes free, while the poor are seized and the toll exacted from them. Such a state of things could hardly be expected to exist at the present day, but so it is. Pesth offers singular attractions to our countrymen, who, from motives of economy, may wish to live abroad:—provisions and house-rent, cheap. One may keep a carriage and a pair of horses for £60 per annum—the coachman having a beard worth half that sum at least! (at Vienna, indeed, one might almost do the same). Quarters are to be had at reasonable rates, and the Hungarians, a fine, hospitable race, are very fond of the English, and most happy to show them all possible attention. After remaining a day at Pesth, I embarked, next morning at five. The steamer was frightfully full, and the curious medley of persons of different countries was very amusing. I had at the *table d'hôte* a Russian countess on one side and a Turk on the other; there were Greek bishops, and a troupe of Italian singers from Milan, bound for Bucharest; the females, or rather *prima donnas*, with such lovely eyes! There was, besides, a motley assemblage of French, Germans, Hungarians, Servians, &c. We arrived at our halting-place for the night, the Mohas or Mohoges, a cluster of huts, at half-past eight, p.m.; there is not much of interest between Pesth and the Mohas. The country on both sides of the river consists of extensive plains, which are, for the most part, uncultivated. We left the "Mohas" the next morning at four, and passed a very curious old ruin, Erlod Castle. About ten a.m. we reached a Slavonian town called Ruhovor, containing a population of about 10,000 souls. The fortress of Peterovordein, or Peterovora Vardar succeeds; it stands about 200 feet above the Danube, and although in former times it might have been considered a strong fortress, could, now-a-days, be carried in a very short period by a Eu-

ropean force. It is situated on a promontory, and takes its name from Peter the Hermit, who was born there. About 6 p.m. the steamer anchored at Semlin, where we remained during the night. I strolled to the town, which is dirty and uninteresting. We left at five the next morning, passing the fortress of Belgrade, which belongs to, and is garrisoned by, the Turks. The town and fortress have an imposing effect from the steamer, but its interior is dirty and uninteresting. The traveller can proceed with a firman from the Pacha, from Belgrade to Constantinople, about 720 miles, in 13 days. We have a consul at Belgrade, Mr. Fonblanque. After passing Pansora, Vinosa, and Bosrah (the steamer stops an hour at the latter place to take in coals), we reached Moldava, which is very beautifully situated, the range of the Banat mountains extending behind the town. The bed of the river is here very rocky and the current very rapid; but although the river was very low, we passed over the rocks, or rather through the channel (a portion of the rocks having been blasted), with perfect safety. The scenery now begins to be truly magnificent, and on passing the ruins of Golubac's Castle, most romantically situated on a lofty rock, two branches of the Danube form a junction, and rush on, being forced into a bed of only about 450 yds. in width. The inhabitants say, that at a short distance from this spot is the cavern where St. George slew the dragon, and since that event the locality has been infested with a dreadful species of gnats, the torment of all the two and four-legged inhabitants of the neighbourhood. At Drenkova we changed our steamer for a much nicer, although smaller one, which drew less water, and passing Milonowitz, arrived at Kosov. The width of the river, between Drenkova and Kosov, varies from 700 to 6,000 feet,—the fall of the water from Vinosa being, as I was informed, three quarters of an inch in 700 feet. Lower down, is a Roman tablet to commemorate Trajan's first Dacian campaign. We then steamed on to Oroovo, which we reached at six p.m.,—a small town, and important from its being the frontier between Turkey and the Austrian dominions. Travellers from Turkey have to perform a quarantine of five days here. Our baggage was put into the Custom-house, but not examined, although we were led to believe it would have been; our passports were *vised* however, and about ten the next morning (our baggage having preceded us) we were all put on board two covered boats, with four rowers in each, to convey us through Eiserr Thör, or Iron Gate, to Skela Clodova, which was performed in about two hours. Had not the river been so low the small steamer could have taken us through. The scenery is very beautiful throughout, and the Eiserr Thör extends about 7,600 feet with a fall of about 14 feet. By the exertions of an Hungarian nobleman, Count Szechemy, this portion of the river, as well indeed as the navigation of the river generally, has been immensely improved. At Skela Clodova we found a much larger steamer, called the Prince Metternich (built, by the way, in England) ready to receive us. As our party had sensibly diminished, and the accommodation in the vessel was considerable, the transition was most acceptable. Before going further, however, I should mention that the Austrian *cordon sanitaire* extends to about a mile beyond Orsova, and upwards of 450 leagues in all; every man from 16 to 50 years old, living on the frontier, through which this cordon extends, is liable to military duty for a certain period, and they hold their lands on this tenure. About 12 English miles from Orsova, are the baths of Mahadia, famous even during the time of the Romans; they are stated to be most efficacious for rheumatism and chronic complaints generally, and are much frequented by the Hungarian nobility. The Government have buildings which they let to strangers, and the living, &c., is remarkably

cheap. Owing to the non-arrival of a carriage belonging to a Russian count, we had to remain at Skela Clodova, until about one o'clock the next morning, when we steamed along the river, which had become in size, &c., a very giant, passing Palanka, a Bulgarian town, and Vidin, a fort appertaining to the Turks. The town, &c., looks imposing from a distance, and has, for its locality, a considerable trade. In the next towns, those of Sistova and Rustchuk, the fortifications are of very slight force. The present Pacha of Rustchuk is a man of a high order. He was for six or seven years in England, and has been forced, as it were, into office. The distance from Constantinople is about 320 miles, and horses and guides can be procured. Had I known of the existing facilities, I should have taken that route in preference to the sea voyage to Constantinople. The river is about 4,300 feet in width here. We anchored for the night two miles from Rustchuk. The next morning, (3rd September), we touched at nine at the town and *ci-devant* fortress of Guingoev, over which I went. The Russians, in 1829, lost nearly 30,000 men in taking it, as the Turks defended it most valiantly. Among the passengers we took on board was a fine young man, a nephew of Prince Milosch, who, after being Prince of Servia is now an exile in, and living at, Vienna. His estates are not confiscated, and he is therefore well off in a pecuniary point of view. Servia pays the Turkish Government £30,000 per annum. The ruler of Wallachia, who is called Vada (the present Vada is Bebasco Haspoda, a Russian name), and the prince of Moldavia (present prince is called Stozco), are elected by the council, but Russia and Turkey possess the *veto*; they pay annually, the one £17,000 or £18,000, and the other £22,000 or £23,000 to the Porte; and the feeling appears to be that as long as Turkey gets the money, she cares for little else, and leaves Russia to play her own game. The province of Bulgaria appertains entirely to Turkey, who appoints a pacha, &c. Nothing strikes a traveller more than the wretched appearance of the villages in the Moldavian and Wallachian territories on the banks of the Danube. Their dress, sheep-skins, and sandals, and the rude implements of their respective callings, chiefly of a pastoral character, appear to have been unchanged from the most remote period. The government of these provinces is lax in the extreme. Bribery and all the evils that follow in its train, reigns triumphant; and I cannot, therefore, but think that they would thrive much better if made part and parcel of Austria or Russia, than in their present nominal state of independence.

I must not omit, among the remarkable things of this neighbourhood, the ruins of Trajan's Bridge. On each side are long buttresses, upwards of 20 feet thick, and I was informed, that at low water some of the piles are visible. The width of the river is about 2,600 feet. The bridge, it is said, was 900 feet long, and 150 wide.

We passed the towns of Silistria, Hirsova, and Rossova, the latter the last of the chain of fortresses on the Danube, the fortifications of which have been destroyed by the Russians,—the locality, famous for pelicans and sturgeons. Some of the latter we had for dinner, and very excellent it was. We anchored for the night a few miles from Rossova, and the next morning at five, (the 4th) we steamed away passing Braylov the sea-port of Bucharest—the latter the capital of Wallachia, with a population of upwards of 100,000. Jassy, the capital of Moldavia, has only a population of about 40,000 souls. Braylov, or as it is also called Ibraila, has a good harbour. The taking of this place during the last war, cost the Russians a large number of their troops. At one p.m., we reached this place, Galatz. My next letter will be from Constantinople, where I trust I

shall find no great obstacles to my journey to Bombay, *via* Bagdad and the Persian Gulf.

Yours truly,

R. R. P.

To the Editor of the Literary Gazette.
Olive Mount, Dublin,
September 28th, 1847.

DEAR SIR,—With gratification not to be expressed did I read in your excellent *Gazette* the announcement of the determination of Miss Coutts "to prepare a domicile for a considerable number of discharged female prisoners." Honour to you, Sir, who have not thought it incompatible with your literary labours—who have not grudged your indeed valuable space, to herald forth the glad tidings to many a broken, many a sincerely penitent heart; and honour—immortal honour—to the truly noble lady who, nurtured in the lap of affluence, has not been unmindful of the trials and temptations of the less fortunate of her sex, who, possessed of every virtue which could adorn the human heart, has given proof that in her estimation "the greatest of all is charity,"—that charity which forbids us to crush the bruised reed, which counsels us to bear in mind that even Magdalen was restored to her pristine purity through the redeeming mercy of Him who left us the example of the Good Samaritan as the standard whereby to test the performance of our duties to one another. As a Christian minister, the announcement which I read in your columns could not fail of commanding my admiration, but as one who has devoted not a few years of his life in the furtherance of the merciful cause which has now for its patron the benevolent Miss Coutts, the tidings came as a balm—as a consolation inexpressible.

As Roman Catholic chaplain of Grangegorman Female Penitentiary, I have had painful proof of the want of an asylum for the unprotected female. In the exercise of my ministry it has been my duty to assist in weaning the poor out-cast from the evil of her way, and through the grace of God it has been my consolation to witness the almost miraculous change from vice to virtue—from impenitence to sincere contrition—in my poor clients. But, merciful God! how my heart has been afflicted—their term of imprisonment having expired—to hear those poor creatures appealing to me as to what they were to do for the time to come—as to where they were to seek shelter from the storms and temptations of the world. Stricken by their cries, I resolved to found an asylum where they might be confirmed in the love of virtue, and trained in the performance of those duties which would be calculated to render them useful members of society for the time to come. In execution of this resolve, I established the Olive Mount Institution, about three miles outside the city of Dublin.

At the outset, I was met by coldness on the part of some—of doubting on the part of others, who, in fact, gave it as their opinion that of all the human race, that class for whose spiritual and temporal welfare, I felt so deeply interested, were irreclaimable of course. I set no great value on the opinions of those who would set a limit to the influence of the grace of God. I, a minister of that merciful God, was not likely to be persuaded that to his mercy there were any bound—and certainly the experience of the past five years, during which time the Olive Mount Institution has been in existence, has been sufficient to dispel the fears of the most sceptical on this head. That those poor creatures are not irreclaimable has been evidenced by the numbers, who, after a probation in that institution, are now, by their exemplary conduct, diffusing joy through the family circle of which they were hitherto the disgrace—by the many others who are now industriously occupied in situations suited to their respective capacities throughout the kingdom, and the large number who are at present sheltered within its walls, whose edifying

conduct is the best refutation of such a charge.

As I have alluded to the want of cooperation on the part of some, it is the more incumbent on me not to omit mentioning that I have had the sympathy of the illustrious house of Howard to cheer me on in my arduous struggle—that amongst the first contributors to the Olive Mount Institution, the name of the kind-hearted Lord Morpeth occupies a prominent place—that the magnificent annual subscription of the benevolent Lord Cloncurry has been contributed from the first year to the present, as has also been that of our present Chief Secretary, the humane Sir William Somerville—in fine, that I have had the earnest cooperation and advocacy of the great and good Father Matthew.

As I fear I have already trespassed at far too great length upon your columns, I shall refrain from mentioning the names of the other charitable friends who have upheld me in my labour of love—trying, though no doubt, it has been. Besides, it is the less necessary that I should do so, as you will see their names recorded in the printed report of our proceedings, which I have taken the liberty of forwarding to you. I shall then conclude by once more expressing my high admiration of the benevolence of heart of Miss Coutts, and by assuring you of the profound respect and esteem of, Dear Sir,

your obedient humble servant,

BERNARD KIRBY,

Roman Catholic Chaplain
of Grangegorman-lane Penitentiary.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

CALORIFIC SPECTRUM.—INTERFERENCES.

THE experiments of M.M. Fizeau and Foucault to determine whether rays of heat like those of light possess the property of interference, show that all the rays which compose the calorific spectrum, both in the luminous and dark portions, have the property of interference; and that in the luminous space the interferences manifest themselves simultaneously at the same points, both for the luminous and for the calorific rays. This results, they say, from the existence of calorific bands in the whole extent of the spectrum, and from their coincidence, in the region of the visible rays, with the luminous bands. Thus,—considering only at first, the elements of heat in the luminous space, it is seen that the interferences exhibit no difference of property between the luminous and calorific rays, and that in this respect these two orders of rays blend. Everything happens as if each ray, separated by refraction, were simple and endowed with the double property of heating bodies and impressing the eye. And it is contended that in all circumstances where the luminous rays interfere, the same connection is maintained, and that heat is always inseparably allied with light.

The elements of heat which constitute the obscure part of the spectrum differ from the preceding, only in being less refracted by the prism, and in being invisible. But like them they are susceptible of interference, producing bands disposed in a similar manner, and in uninterrupted succession, with those in the visible rays. Thus in respect of interferences, these rays do not differ from the visible rays more than they do from each other.

In regard to the undulatory theory, M.M. Fizeau and Foucault consider that the red rays do not essentially differ from the more refrangible violet ray, the length of their undulations only being greater; and that in like manner the dark rays differ, in the same respect only, from the visible rays. Consequently the calorific spectrum is to be viewed as composed of simple rays unequally calorific, some visible, others invisible; and endowed, each with its own length of undulation, greater according as the refrangibility is less. Those which are visible constitute

the luminous spectrum, and have known lengths of undulation. For those which are invisible, the undulations are still greater than those of the red rays, and so much the greater according as the point considered is distant from them.

The Society of Arts has published an address of considerable interest, noticing the various Associations and Institutions, of a somewhat similar character, which have sprung up since it was founded; and, as these pursue objects originally peculiar to it, announcing that it will now commence a new sphere of utility: the change is thus described:—"It (the Society) may still encourage, as formerly the artist in every department of his art—in historical, in landscape, and familiar life paintings, in sculpture, and in ornamental design. All these branches may be applied decoratively, without lowering history or landscape, but giving grandeur and elevation to decoration. With these views, the Society has revised its class of Fine Art premiums. It proposes to award prizes for the best designs uniting art and manufacture, and with these for the best compositions whether painted or modelled, to be employed in architectural decorations, to fill the spandrels of arches, friezes, panels, &c. Experience of the works of Raffaele, Andrea Mantegna, Polidoro, Ghiberti, shows how the highest art may be applied to decorative purposes. Another class of prizes will be established for the encouragement of careful studies in the same direction. And the object of these prizes being strictly educational, they will be limited to students of a certain age; the Society's aim being to educate a class of Students who shall be prepared to enter into successful competition for the prizes previously mentioned, and to guide their efforts towards those points of general utility where their talents may be remunerated. A beginning has been made during the two past sessions, and with no little success, to encourage an improved character of design in Manufactures. Prizes having the same object in view will therefore be continued, and their scope enlarged." We consider this to be a very laudable step in the right direction.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

To the Editor of the Literary Gazette.

Cork, October 3, 1847.

SIR,—In your publication of the 25th of the past month, I read, as I had previously seen in other Journals, the following statement:

"At Amsterdam, M. Hison presented to the Royal Library, a rich collection of rare books. Among them were *Petri Alfonsi Summulae XII.* printed at Alost, this copy being, it is said, the only one in existence; and the copy of the *Bulla Retractationum* of Pius II. *Utrecht*, without printer's name or indication of the year, which belonged to the Duke de la Vallière, and fetched four hundred louis d'ors at his sale."

Confining the observations I have to submit to you to the latter volume, it at once occurred to me that no printed book at that auction produced half the sum here represented, and, on consulting the catalogue (3 tom. 8vo., 1783), I found that the volume there recited, instead of four hundred louis d'ors, just fetched that number of livres, or francs, that is the one-twenty-fourth part of the stated price—no small variance, it will be allowed. The title is *Pii Papae II. Bulla Retractationum omnium dudum per Eum in Minoribus adhuc agentem, pro Concilio Basiliensi*, &c. containing 3 double pages of 26 lines each, and printed, not at Utrecht, but Colonia Agrippina, per Ulricum Zel de Hanau. (Circa 1468.) At subsequent sales, it produced much less. A louis d'or was equivalent to twenty-four francs, and, at the exchange of that day, fully equal to a pound sterling.

The highest price paid for a printed book at that great sale, which produced altogether

414,677 livres, or francs, (about £18,000) was the *Christianismi Restitutio* of Servetus, *Viennae Allobrogum, (Viennae in Dauphina)* 1583, 8vo., bought for the Royal Library of Paris, for 4,120 livres, and in the catalogue stated to be unique, which, however, was not the case, as another copy existed in the Imperial Library of Vienna formerly belonging to Prince Eugene, the participant of our Marlborough's triumphs. Debur, in his *Bibliographie Instructive*, No. 766, calls it, "*le plus rare de tous les livres*," and we are told by Meerman, (*Origines typographicae* 1765 tom. I.) that with the exception of a single copy concealed by one of his judges, the whole produce of the press was consumed in burning Calvin's victim, "*codices famori alligati, &c.*" However, as just mentioned, a second copy survived the flames, and a reprint appeared at Nuremberg, in 1791. It is in this famous volume, (*liber V.*) that the passage so strikingly demonstrative of the unfortunate Spaniard's insight into the true theory of the circulation of the blood is to be seen, and not as Gibbon in his controversy with Priestley, represents it, in another work of Servetus, *De Trinitatis Erroribus*.

The volume productive of the largest price at that sale, was a manuscript, in the unsurpassed penmanship of Nicholas Jarry; *La Guirlande de Julie, pour Mlle. de Rambouillet, Julie Lucienne D'Angennes; Escrip. par N. Jarry, en 1641, folio*, which was bought by the Duchess de Châtillon, a descendant of the lady and her husband, the Duke of Montansier, who, before their marriage, presented to her this garland, consisting of sixteen madrigals, to which were subjoined appropriate flowers, painted by Nicolas Robert, still unexcelled in that line. The price was 1,410 livres, then equal to £600. The most admired of the madrigals was that by Desmarests de Saint Sorlin, on the violet, to which Madame de Sévigné, in her letter of September 1st, 1680, compares the Duchess de la Vallière, then a Carmelite nun, in deep contrition for having yielded to the seduction of Louis XIV. So direct an imitation, as to appear a plagiarism of the last four lines of St. Sorlin's madrigal, by the beautiful Duchess of Devonshire, mother of the present Duke, is discoverable in the copy of her poem on the passage of Mount Gothard which she presented to the French poet, Delille, with an address in French. Thus the noble lady writes:

"J'ose vous offrir en tremblant,
De l'humble pré la fleur nouvelle;
Je la voudrais immortelle,
Si vous acceptiez le présent."

while de Sorlin's madrigal concluded as follows:

"Modeste en ma couleur, modeste en mon séjour,
Franche d'ambition, je me cache sous l'herbe;
Mais si sur votre front je puis me voir un jour,
La plus humble des fleurs, sera la plus superbe."

Delille had translated the Duchess's poem into French.

This striking similarity of thought between St. Sorlin and her Grace has not been noticed by any reader, as far as I know.

I have the honour to be your's &c.,

J. R.

Philosophical Meeting at Gotha.—The following notice conveys a pretty clear idea of the present condition of German philosophy, and philosophical pursuits:—"A preliminary meeting of the savans of Gotha took place this week, when Professor Ulrici delivered an eloquent discourse on the essential categories of the views of Aristotle, Kant, and Hegel, to which he added an original inquiry leading to further research. The subject naturally embraced the essence of Being of God, and concluded by an elucidation of the contending ideas of Truth and Error, and the partial subsistence of Truth in Deism and

Polytheism, as comprehending the eternal Being as self-existing Spirit. The subject was followed up by Professor Fortlage, in a discourse on Emanation and Transcendence, which further elucidated the opinions of Dr. Ulrici, especially in regard to the ethical interests of man."

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

DRINKING TOASTS.

The English custom and mode of toast drinking at public and social meetings is so uniform as to attract no notice, and to be in fact somewhat wearisome from its want of variety. Except upon special occasions the routine runs thus:—"the Queen" who lives in the hearts of her loyal subjects, &c.; "the Queen Dowager" the model of female virtues, and unbounded benevolence; "Prince Albert," the "Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," with compliments at the discretion of the chairman and toast-master; the "Army and Navy," our brave defenders, &c., who have done their duty, and, if occasion requires it, will repeat the dose; the toast of the day whatever it may be; other toasts of parties present, who are buttered like parsnips, the House of Peers, if a Peer be a guest, and the same in respect to the Commons' House, and generally the Church; the Stewards and Caterers, and occasionally a stray bumper suggested by some passing circumstance, or curious person, or reputed orator. The whole of the ceremonies, and the greater part of the speeches, might be stereotyped.

At the sumptuous festival given by Sheriffs Cubitt and Hill, on the 30th, a slight deviation took place; and "Prosperity to the Periodical Press" was given, to call up Mr. Walter of *The Times*, and M.P. for Nottingham, and which elicited a very feeling likable acknowledgement from that gentleman.

But what strikes us on all these "re-unions" is that it so rarely happens that the services of the greatest benefactors of mankind are recognized. The Science which improves every moment of man's civilized existence, and the Literature which refines, elevates, and adorns it, are as if they were not. The little immediate is felt and panegyricized, the mighty universal has no grateful eulogy. The material is far ahead of the intellectual in the national mind. The army and navy—they fight for us, and, like cowards or women we never fail to thank them for getting their heads broken and saving ours. The church prays for us, and we are a professing religious people, who even over our cups must remember the good offices of the clergy. If any members of government, or any eminent lawyers are present, we drink them fearfully, the former for not taxing us more, and the latter for not hanging us. But the illustrious historian; the immortal poet; the wonderful inventor of gas, or steam, or super-human machinery; the pure teacher of morals; the great philosopher; the glorious sculptor, or painter—the brightest luminaries of their own time, and the lights of future ages till time shall be no more—nobody ever dreams of toasting them or their works. Why should not Science, or Literature, or the Arts be standing toasts among intelligent persons? The Periodical Press does now and then (as we have noted in this instance) win the compliment; but this seems to be simply because it is the most practical and least exalted of any branch of letters. Yet it is potential as well as forthwith applicable, and therefore is it "soft-sawdred." It can give a good turn or a buffet within a few hours, and therefore is its tongue hallowed, and its operators propitiated. Far be it from us to say that such unctuous honours are not due to it: the wielders of the pen are in any way equal to the wielders of the sword, and the influence of the Periodical Press, is enormous in all things be they small or great, a street row or a national quarrel, a vestry or general election, the stability of a police

constable or the popularity of a prime minister. It is the mysterious we that commands awe and glorification; though the "we," in many cases (far removed from that in question), may be an ignorant blockhead, or an impertinent pretender. After all the query is,—Among a people boasting so much of their intellectual progress, why should not Science, Literature, and the Fine Arts, take their place as Standing Toasts at our public and national entertainments?

BIOGRAPHY.

RICHARD BRINSLEY PEAKE.

THE obituary of the week records the death of Richard Brinsley Peake, aged only 55, at his residence, Cleves Lodge, Queen's-clms. Mixing with the dramatic world from his boyhood, and living nearly all his life in the midst of a jealous and easily offended circle, with whose affairs, desires, ambitions, prospects, and disappointments he was intimately concerned, it is our firm belief that he so conducted himself throughout as never to make one enemy, (justly he never could) and to secure the respect, goodwill, and friendship of all who knew him. As stage manager, as author, as private individual, he placidly held on the even tenor of his way; though all who are acquainted with theatrical matters will be aware that the "way" must have often been thorny enough, and its calm interrupted by many a storm. But it seemed almost impossible to ruffle or irritate the fine disposition of Dick Peake: even his own failures were borne with the spirit of a philosopher, and he would confess that an audience was quite right in condemning any of his productions, only hoping that when improved it might have a run, as it was his fate "generally to be—on a first night;" and so it was, there was a peculiar originality and quaintness in his humour, so out of the common line, that it was not always understood by the public, till repetition made them familiar with its allusions, points, and hits; then it was felt, and a number of his pieces continue to be lasting favourites on the stage.

The father of Mr. Peake was long the Treasurer of Drury Lane Theatre, and the intimate of Sheridan, whence his son's name and early intercourse with the theatre and its performances and performers, and the social sphere which sprung out of their relations. Of his godfather he saw much, and could many a tale unfold. His close connection with Mr. Arnold during a number of years, his management at the Lyceum, and his productions from time to time, raised him to dramatic and literary celebrity, and, though less prominently than before, he continued to the close of his life to contribute his compositions to the stage. In society and among friends, the manners and conversation of Mr. Peake were particularly agreeable and entertaining. His fund of pleasantry was inexhaustible, and the quiet tone in which it was measured out, either in anecdote or witty remark, gave it an increased effect. The smile was sure, when the broad laugh was not extorted. His works in dramatic and periodical literature are far too numerous and extensive to be enumerated at present; and we sincerely lament to see it stated in the daily newspapers that he has left a large family in very indifferent circumstances. Is it ever to be thus with literary labourers?

Henry Howard, Esq., R.A.—Another of the veterans of the Royal Academy, and ornaments of the English school of painting, has been removed from amongst us. Mr. Howard died at Oxford on the 5th, in his 78th year. He was many years Secretary and Professor of Painting to the Royal Academy, and himself an artist of great merit in the higher walks of art. The infirmities of age had led him, lately, to retire

from his official duties; and for some time a comparative failure of his mind and hand might be traced in his exhibited pictures. But in earlier times, and in his prime, his prolific invention and pencil produced many beautiful and interesting specimens of art. Taste and poetical feeling were perhaps his most prominent qualities; and for many a classical and legendary embodiment have the public been indebted to him. Religious subjects were also gracefully and appropriately treated when he departed from his favourite themes of mythology and legend, to represent the features of sacred truth. In devising book illustrations Mr. Howard was pre-eminently successful, and altogether we may say that in him we have lost one of the most distinguished of our contemporaries in the most pleasing and elevated sphere of art. His daughter, our readers are aware, possesses no small share of her father's genius.

Colonel Hammer Warrington, during 33 years the representative of England at Tripoli, died at Patras, on the 18th of August. Independently of the faithful discharge of his official duties, Col. Warrington distinguished himself by his pursuit and encouragement of Archaeology, and from him we received very interesting information, not only in regard to Carthaginian and Roman antiquities, but also to the philology of the native regions and the people who are spread along the coast and into the interior of the country. We are inclined to think that his researches and collections in both these branches must be of considerable value, and we trust they will not be lost to the public.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

A BLASE'S VIEW OF THE RHINE.

"LOOK, mein Herr, where Rheinstein rises!
Rheinstein, that each sketcher prizes.
Castle, legend! legend, castle!
Heav'n and earth! have I not past all?
"How, my lord, art not in love
With our land of rock and rain?"
Speak not of them! Powers above!
Faith my patience they're undoing.
Talk of legends! I'm enough!
Is not one to all the key, eh?
Robber fierce, half guilt, half glitter,
Mildness fair, and fiery bitter;
Are not these the three-bell ranges
On which they ring their endless changes?
Talk of castles, oh! ye gods!
How my drowsy cranium nods.
Cynosures of travellers' barks,
Bergs, and Steins, and Fels, and Achs,
Where's the difference 'twixt so many?
'Pon my life, I can't find any.
Ciceroni show two brothers,
Trust me, there are myriad others!
Katzes—Mause—all, believe me
Are brothers, or these eyes deceive me!
Moonlight vigils, early rising,
Yawning and romanticising;
Table-d'hôte's unsavoury olio,
Empty purse and full portfolio,
Form the tourist's odd imbroglio;
Yet there's one *bonne bouche* at least—
On *Hock* an epicure may feast!
Come, my friend, fill high, fill high,
Soon we'll bid the vapours fly!
A cup of generous Rhenish wine
Drowns the blue devils of the Rhine!

ELEANOR DABY.

SONG.

So mournfully she gazed on him
As if her heart would break;
Her silence more upbraided him
Than all her tongue might speak!
So mournfully she gazed on him,
Yet answer made she none;—
But tears that could not be repressed,
Fell slowly, one by one.
"I hoped," she said,—but what she hoped
In blushes died away;
"I thought," she said,—but what she thought
Her tears might only say!—
She could do nought but gaze on him,
For answer she had none;
But tears, that could not be repressed,
Fell slowly, one by one.

Alas! that life should be so short—
So short, and yet so sad!
Alas! that we so late are taught
To prize the time we had!
The silent sorrow of that hour
Will haunt his daily track;
And oft he'll wish, when lost the power,
He'd called that weeper back.

CHARLES SWAIN.

THE DRAMA.

THE dramatic season has opened most auspiciously, not for managers alone, but for authors, actors, and the public generally. Though there is much to chronicle in the past week, it is all of so praiseworthy and successful a character that the critic's task is amazingly lightened, and we proceed to our labour as a "labour of love."
Haymarket.—On Saturday Mr. Webster opened with only a portion of one of the largest and best companies that has been gathered at a London theatre for a very long time, with the *School for Scandal*, to one of the largest and best audiences that ever crowded this popular theatre. Mr. Farren led the way as *Sir Peter*, with Mrs. Nisbett as his *Lady*, and Mrs. Glover followed in the wake as *Mrs. Candour*. What more could be desired, or what else needs even mention? and yet we should not be just were we to omit the *Lessee's Moses*. Two sons of eminent fathers also made their bows to London audiences, namely, Mr. Farren and Mr. Vandenhoff, and though they did not make the impression that in days gone by usually followed successful efforts in the Provinces, they still did enough to prove that they have "stuff" of the right quality in them, which longer experience on the boards will bring out. The play was well played throughout, too well for us to care about pointing out minor defects. On Monday, Miss Helen Faucit was re-and-re-welcomed to her return to health and London. The play selected for her re-appearance was *Sir E. B. Lytton's* most beautiful love story of the *Lady of Lyons*, in which Miss Faucit has made the part of *Pauline* entirely her own. She was efficiently seconded by Mr. Creswick, as *Claude Melmotte*, who used his abilities, which, if not first-rate, are, at any rate, respectable—to the extent of his power, and thereby contributed to the general success that attended the revival of this charming drama. We must also give another word of praise to Knowles's *Hunchback*, which was played on Wednesday, with Miss Faucit for the *Julia*, and Mrs. Nisbett for the *Helen*, and, having said thus much, we need hardly add that the performance was as near perfection as possible. Mr. Ranger re-appeared on the same evening, after a ten years' absence from London, in the merry after-piece of the *Romantic Widow*, and was as cordially welcomed as his merits deserve—and they deserve highly. Altogether, Mr. Webster has made a most prosperous commencement; we sincerely trust—and it is almost impossible that it should—that his prosperity will not forsake him during this season, so well begun.

Princess's.—It seems to be concluded on all sides that Mr. Maddox is going to carry on operations on the "Star" system; but why it should be so concluded we cannot see, unless the fact of his having engaged such real "Stars" as Macready, Miss Cushman, and Mlle. Thillon be considered sufficient evidence. However, our business is not with speculations of how he is going to manage, but to record in what manner he has catered for the public taste, and we are bound to say that if he goes on as he has begun, the public will have no cause to be dissatisfied. On Monday we had *Macbeth*, not from the text of Shakspeare, but as qualified with Locke's music, and the singing witches. It would be absurd to enter into a criticism of how Mr. Macready and Miss Cushman played the principal parts, as their development of these characters is well

known, but we may say that they were both in great force and that Mr. Macready in particular, never threw more force and judgment into aught he has done than he did into the whole of the last act of *Macbeth*; it was a triumph of the histrionic art. Tuesday gave us *The Stranger*, with Miss Cushman as Mrs. Haller, and everything that could be done was done for this repulsive play. It was followed by a *Romance of the Rhine*, a new translation from the French, which, though well and carefully acted, has nothing in it to recommend it to more than a passing notice. Wednesday brought *Othello*, with Mr. Macready as the Moor, and as effective as ever. Desdemona found a representative in Miss Emmeline Montague, who played charmingly and whose return to the stage we welcome most heartily as a lady calculated soon to become one of its greatest ornaments. Need we say that Miss Cushman did make a great part of *Emilia*, or that she delivered each bitter bit with intense bitterness? The other parts were played indifferently well. On Thursday, *Romeo and Juliet*, with the sisters Cushman in their old parts, gave an opportunity for welcoming Miss Susan as Juliet, and very gratifying must have been her reception to her; but we have said enough to prove that whether it be "star" system or no, Mr. Maddox is at least active in his management.

Ashtley's.—Mr. Batty has commenced his winter campaign with an equestrian spectacle, entitled *The Cataract of the Ganges, or the Rajah's Daughter*. This piece, like all others where horses and other animals are employed, is chiefly interesting from the grouping of the tableaux and scenery, the accomplishment of which, in the present instance, reflects great credit on Messrs. Batty and Broadfoot, in giving effect to the work of Moncrieff. It is an old title redressed for the purpose of introducing incidents connected with the late Punjab campaign, particularly the humane attempt on the part of the English to put a stop to the sacrifice of life devoted to the superstitious religious rites and ceremonies of the Jahrejah tribe of Brahmans. It is a fine spectacle, and will no doubt become popular. The scenes in the circle are as varied and interesting as ever.

Drury Lane.—M. Jullien's concerts, on a scale if possible, grander than ever, and with Miss Dolby as a *prima donna*, commenced last night. The theatre has been beautifully and chastely decorated, and is illuminated in a style that demands more than common praise; the chandelier is most beautiful. The house was densely crowded in every part, and if we may judge from the brilliant opening, M. Jullien has a triumphant campaign before him.

VARIETIES.

A pair of *Aurochs*, have just been added to the collection of the Zoological Society in the Regent's Park, by the munificence of the Emperor of Russia, who has transmitted this inestimable gift as a proof of his appreciation of the activity and earnestness with which natural science is cultivated in this country. The singular fact of the re-appearance of an animal which was certainly contemporaneous with the extinct races of large mammals which once inhabited Britain, is a subject of congratulation to all lovers of zoology, and we have no manner of doubt that the liberal spirit which prompted the gift, and the skill with which the Imperial commands have been executed, will meet with the appreciation they deserve. We understand that the Society are in possession of many particulars relating to the habits and economy of this most interesting of all animals in the last asylum which remains to the race in Lithuania, where its existence is prolonged only by the most sedulous care and the express enactments of the Em-

peror. We trust that we shall soon have an opportunity of transferring them to our columns.

Mr. Robert Thom, the Chinese Scholar, has had his memory honoured by a grant of £250 from the Queen's Bounty Fund, presented to his mourning mother by Lord John Russell. It is stated in the *Glasgow Chronicle* that the last days of his life were devoted to the finish for publication of an elementary work on the Chinese language and literature, entitled "The Chinese Speaker," of which copies have arrived in England.

Dreadful Accident.—Accounts from Norway state that the immense rock which hung over Melsingegard, and which had several days before split in numerous places, fell suddenly down and buried about 230 people, inhabiting 34 dwellings, in the ruin. Only 13 of the people are said to have escaped with their lives.

Shakspeare.—The universal popularity of Shakspeare among all classes of the English people is not only shown in our theatres, but wherever the subject is brought forward in any shape. Thus Mr. Birnie, the son of the late magistrate, has given lectures on the poet, with much *éclat*, at Crosby Hall, and announces their continuance in Hanover Square; and Mr. Russell, the performer, has produced an immense effect by the reading of Shakspeare's plays at the Mechanics' Institute.

City of London Library.—A very acceptable Report on the contents and arrangements of this excellent library was laid before the Common Council on Thursday, but the portion which is most satisfactory is, that agreeably to the resolution of the 6th of March, 1846, the ante-room has been fitted up as a museum for antiquities and works of art. We may now hope that the Archaeological remains continually discovered in the metropolis will no longer be destroyed or appropriated to themselves by individuals of the dog-in-the-manger class.

Old Boat.—The *Glasgow Chronicle* describes the discovery of an ancient and rudely formed canoe, scooped out of a solid Scotch oak, imbedded seventeen feet in the sand on the banks of the Clyde, near Springfield. It is 11 feet long, 18 inches broad, and capable of carrying two or three persons.

Card playing in Russia is the engrossing amusement and business of all ranks, but especially of the higher orders, who have recently petitioned the Imperial monopoly, near St. Petersburg, to increase the supply, which previously reached the large daily manufacture (including Sundays) of 1200 dozen packs. We have no knowledge of the statistics of card manufacture in England, but a make of 14,400 packs a day, or 5,266,000 packs a year, appears enormous; and this insufficient to meet the home demand! Oh! tempora, Oh! mores!

The small Pox in Sheep and unpleasant Foreign Imports.—This new and disgusting animal disease, introduced into this country by the importation of some foreign sheep, is now authoritatively declared to be highly contagious, and has also been communicated by inoculation, as in the human subject. We have not seen it publicly noticed that destructive insects and noxious vermin, previously unknown in England, have recently been brought to our shores with grain and provisions from distant parts, and are rapidly increasing throughout the land. The former are found to be very injurious to our agriculture, and the latter upon cheese, bacon, dried meats; and, resembling bugs, may be seen in almost every shop, which deals in these articles in London.

Jenny Lind left England on Tuesday, in the General Steam Navigation Company's steamship, John Bull, for Hamburg. She goes to Berlin, and thence to Stockholm.

Progress of Public Education in St. Petersburg.—Other nations as well as England are

taking up this great subject. The Central Institute of Instruction at St. Petersburg, has just been re-modelled by Count Uwaroff, Minister of Public Instruction, in order to meet the requirements of the day. It includes the training and education of masters for the higher as well as the lower seminaries of the empire. Of its two sections, the lower is to be given up; this will involve the courses of juridical instruction, and the sums thus saved will be appropriated to the improvement of the salaries in the other departments, viz:—the historical-philological and the physico-mathematical, especially the branches of astronomy, Russian history, and the Slavonian language.

Emigration to America.—The emigration to New York has increased much this year; in the month of July alone, 20,000 persons entered that port, and since the 1st of April, more than 84,000 passengers have passed through the custom-house. The general state of the health of the emigrants is good, and the mortality has not been great. The ship-fever has not appeared there; whilst at Quebec not fewer than 700 persons have fallen victims to it within four weeks.

Rubens.—The restoration of the famous pictures of this master, now in progress, at Antwerp, by M. Kiewert, excites much interest and anxiety; though it is believed that the process of transferring from the old canvas, or from panel to new canvas, if executed with care, is neither so difficult nor dangerous as has been supposed. The essential thing appears to be the safe removal of the *intanaco*, and the substitution of a similar ground.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

A MS. *Life of Fra Girolamo Savonarola*, dictated by Fra Serafino Razzi, of the order of Preachers, and some *Poems*, by Savonarola, is stated to have been discovered in Italy. Whether Apostle or impostor, a genuine memoir of this zealous Dominican would probably offer a curious picture of his time. His denunciations of the corruptions in the Romish Church, and his martyrdom, therefore created a strong sensation.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

History of Art, by its Monuments from the French of Seroux d'Agincourt, 3 vols. folio, sewed, £5 5s.—Dictionary of the English Language, by Robert Sullivan, A.M., 12mo. cloth, 3s. 6d.—James, on the Collects, 12mo. new edit. 5s.—Arnold's German Book, 12mo. cloth, 5s. 6d.; Companion to ditto, 12mo. cloth, 4s.—Ficht's Characteristics of the present Age, post 8vo. cloth, 7s.—Endeavour after the Christian Life, Discourses by J. Martineau, 2 vols. post 8vo. cloth, 7s. 6d.—The Elements of Individualism, series of Lectures by W. Maccall, post 8vo. cloth, 7s. 6d.—Dickens' Pickwick, 8vo. cloth, 5s.; sewed, 4s. 6d.—Results of Astronomical Observations, made during the years 1834 to 1838, at the Cape of Good Hope, by Sir T. F. W. Herschel, 4to. cloth, £4 4s.—Recreation, (The) for 1848, fcp. cloth, 5s.—Guy's Hospital Reports, vol. 5, 8vo. cloth, 7s.—Light from the Sanctuary for the cloudy and dark day, 18mo. cloth, 2s.—Memory's Review, or Principles in Practice, by Mary Dring, 12mo. cloth, 2s. 6d.—Dallas's Book of Psalms, 2d edit. 18mo. cloth, 3s. 6d.—Astronomical Aphorisms, or Theory of Nature, by P. Murphy, Esq., 2d. edit. 12mo. cloth, 5s.—History of the College of All Saints, Maidstone, by Deale Poste, royal 8vo. cloth, 9s.—History of the Hundred of Wirral, by W. Williams Mortimer, 4to. bdr. £1 11s. 6d.—Parochial Lectures on 39 Articles, by W. Orger, M.A., vol. 1, 8vo. bds. 8s.—Jebb's Choral Responses, folio, 30s.—History of Ancient Britons, from Earliest Period to the invasion of the Saxons, by the Rev. J.A. Giles, D.C.L., 2 vols. 8vo. cloth, 30s.—Macmichael's Analysis of Xenophon, 12mo. cloth, 5s.—Turner's Chemistry, 8th edit. 8vo. cloth, 30s., part 2, 8vo. cloth, 15s.—Brandon's Analysis of Gothic Architecture, 2 vols. 4to. £5 5s.—Parley's Annual, 1848, 5s.—Rowland Bradshaw, his struggles and adventures in his way to Fame, 8vo. cloth, 15s.—Lislar's Practice of Surgery, 2d edit. 8vo. cloth, 12s. 6d.—Bridge's Proverbs, 2 vols. 12mo. 2d edit. 12s.—Personal Recollections, by C. Elizabeth, 12mo. cloth, new edit. 6s.—Berninichamp's French Grammar, by De la Voje, 12mo. new edit. 4s.

DENT'S TABLE FOR THE EQUATION OF TIME.

[This table shows the time which a clock or watch should indicate when the sun is on the meridian.]

1847.	h. m. s.	1847.	h. m. s.
Oct. 9 . . .	11 47 26 5	Oct. 13 . . .	11 46 25 4
10 . . .	47 10 5	14 . . .	46 11 3
11 . . .	46 55 0	15 . . .	45 57 8
12 . . .	46 40 0		

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We were disinclined to insert Mr. Egestoff's letter respecting the Phantasia of Faust, &c. in our *Gazette* of the 25th ult., in consequence of his stating that he did not know the original. He is probably right, however, in fancying that the latter part of the line of Gaspar, "Does he belong to the devil? that would be the devil," should have been in the translation "the devil he does," *das unre der teufel*—a common exclamation. And, again, a little further on (see *L.G.*) "You stupid devil! du dummer teufel, should be simply "you blockhead;" that "Cost money *Kostgeld*, should be "hard wages;" and, finally, that "you are very kind, but Caspar has not broken his head either," should read "but Caspar is not a fool either," instead of the literal rendering of Caspar, *ist auch nicht auf den kopf gefallen*.

X. X. X.—Silence is not consent with us; but, generally the reverse.

We are very much obliged to Mr. Cochrane, the able secretary and librarian of the London Library, for his second and much enlarged edition of its catalogue. It does infinite credit to his intelligence and methodical arrangements, and is altogether a most meritorious compilation; from which we rejoice to see that the library is in so flourishing a condition.

POSITIVE RUIN.—The pamphlet appeal of the Rev. W. T. Harvey to Lord John Russell, complaining of the imical interference of the Bishop of London in his clerical career, and dedicated to the united body of Freemasons, does not come within the scope of our review; though we may feel as a "Brother" for the calamities which have beset the author and his family.

The *Literary World* (New York) does not act fairly by us in re-printing our original letter from Napoleon Bonaparte to his uncle, without acknowledging the journal whence it was copied. We are so used to these things at home every week that we never notice them, but take an early opportunity to repudiate the practice abroad.

CH—M—L—L is thanked, but his communication was received too late.

We regret to say our usual PARIS LETTER had not arrived when we went to press.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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PART I.			
Overture,	Der Freischütz,	Webster.	
Quadrille,	On Aïrs from Herold's Opera of "ZAMPA,"	Jullien.	
Symphony,	The Andantino, from the Symphony in A,	Brothoven.	
Solo,	Violoncello, SIGNOR PIATTI, (His first appearance)	Piatti.	
Valse,	(First time) Miranda, composed on the occasion of Her Majesty's visit to Cambridge,	König.	
Recitative and Aria,	"Gracia Clementi Dei" and "A te Biede," sung by MISS DOLBY, (who is engaged for a limited period, and will make her Third Appearance, to-morrow, at M. JULLIEN'S Concerts,)	Mercadante.	
Quadrille,	The British Navy, with Solos by Mr. Richardson, M. Barret, M. Prosper, and Herr König,	Jullien.	
PART II.			
Opera,	"Norma," Grand Selection, with Solos for Flute, Clarinet, and Duo for two Cornets, performed by Mr. Richardson, Herr Sonnenberg, Mr. Rowland, and Herr König,	Bellini.	
Valse,	Olga, or Princess's Valse,	Jullien.	
National song,	"The Swiss Girl," (3rd Time), Sung by MISS DOLBY,	Linley.	
Polka,	From Donizetti's Opera, "La Figlia del Regiment," (1st Time),	Jullien.	
Solo,	Flute, Mr. Richardson,	Richie.	
Polka,	American Polka,	Jullien.	

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Prospectus.

When we look to the vast population, and consider the eminence, the trade, the enterprise, the great manufacturing and commercial interests of this metropolis, it becomes a matter of no little surprise that the most active means have not, long since, been taken to obtain a better supply of water, and to get rid of the mud-and-water monopoly which has so grievously existed for many years past.

The subject is one upon which so much has been said, and such universal complaints made, that it is altogether unnecessary to dilate upon the crying evil, or to offer a single remark beyond that which is rendered so self-evident to every disinterested and dispassionate mind.

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